ALL ABOUT HISTORY

NEW

Joan of Arc
How the warrior saint put the fear of God into the English

JACK THE RIPPER
Hunting for London's gruesome East End terror

KAMIKAZE
The rise of Japan's divine wind

POWER OF THE PHARAOH
How the godlike Ramesses II presided over one of the world's greatest civilisations

Race to the Antarctic
Scott and Amundsen's battle for glory

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The Royal Mint

QUEEN ANNE

the last Stuart queen

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THE DEATH OF QUEEN ANNE
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P1502A

The crew of US aircraft carrier White Plains take cover during the first-ever organised Kamikaze attacks in the Battle of Leyte **Page 76**

Welcome

Ever since the modern age discovered ancient Egypt we've been hopelessly enthralled by it. And why wouldn't we be? It covered 3,000 years of amazing constructions, mummifications, untold wealth, fascinating gods and all-powerful pharaohs. For this issue we've chosen to focus on the pharaoh Ramesses II, who is frequently described as one of Egypt's greats. Ruling for over six decades, this god among men had a profound effect on his civilisation. Turn to page 48 to find out about his power.

As ever, this issue gleefully jumps across some of history's most interesting time periods and events, such as the American gold rush, Japan's Kamikaze warriors, Italian unification and the hunt for Jack the Ripper.

This issue sees the launch of our first-ever reader survey and we would really appreciate your input. As we know filling in surveys can be a minor hassle, everyone who gives us their feedback will be entered into a draw where they can win history-related prizes worth around £300 ($500). Entry details are on page 27 and we would love to hear your opinion on the magazine.

Andrew Brown
Editor

Issue ten highlights

Heroes & villains
Joan of Arc heard voices in her head telling her to expel the invading English – but she also had to fight against her own king and France's religious leaders

10 celebrity spies
From Casanova to Ian Fleming, the world of espionage has involved some surprising names and big celebrities. Read about ten of history's best-known superagents

Antarctic explorer
Robert F Scott attempted to beat Roald Amundsen to the South Pole in the winter of 1911-1912 with a five-man expedition team, but his journey would end in tragedy

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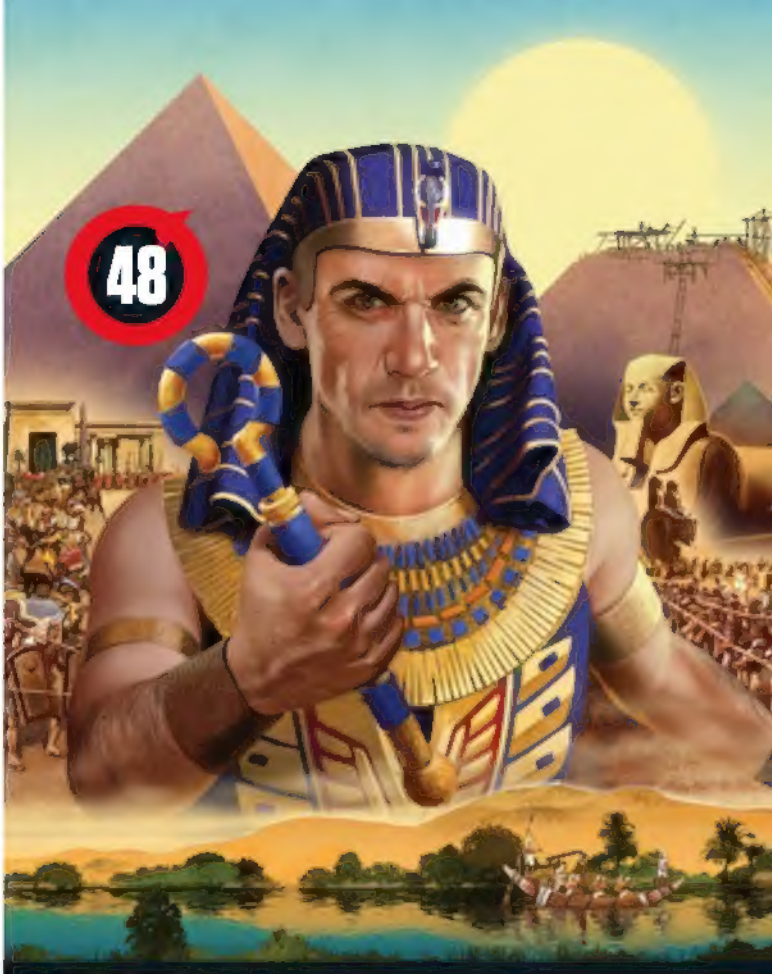

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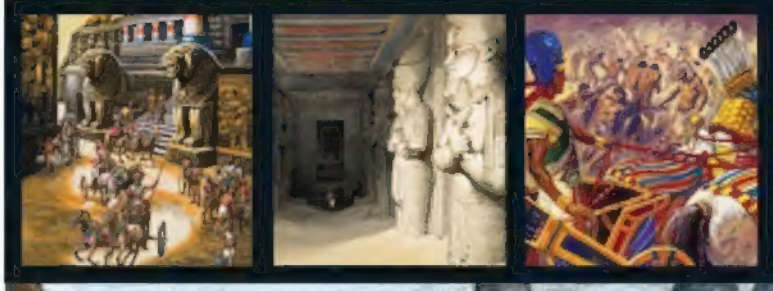

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Cleopatra is one of the most expensive films in history, but did the budget translate into historical accuracy?

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DEFINING MOMENT

PACIFIC CONFLICT

Aircraft carrier USS Franklin is afire and listing after being hit by a Japanese air attack while operating off the coast of Japan. After the attack the vessel lay dead in the water, without radio communications and broiling under the heat from enveloping fires. The hundreds of officers and enlisted men who voluntarily remained saved their ship but over 700 were killed.

19 March 1945

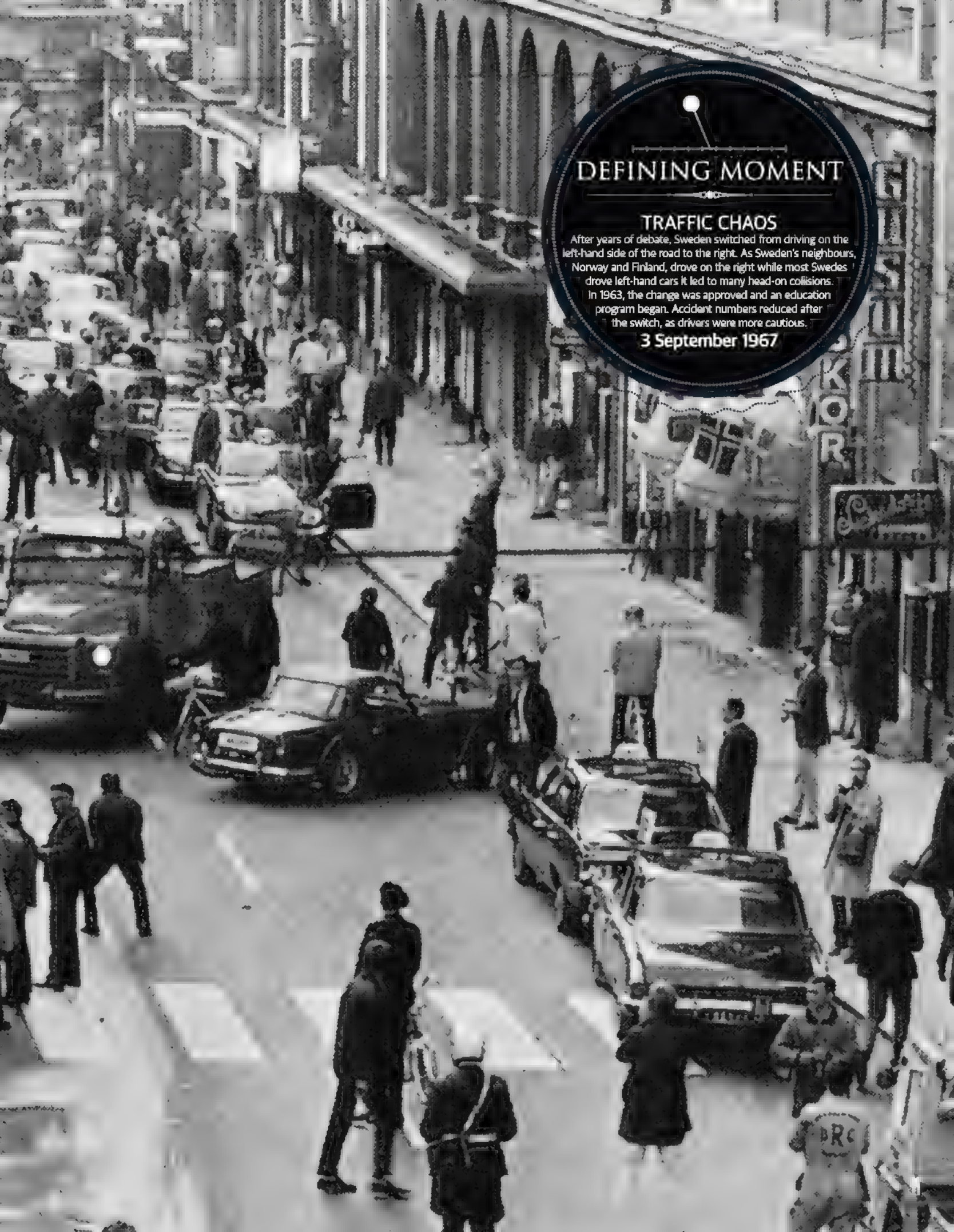
DEFINING MOMENT

JUST A GAME?

Colombian defender Andrés Escobar lies on the ground after scoring an own goal during a game against USA at the 1994 FIFA World Cup. Colombia went on to lose the game and were knocked out of the tournament. Escobar was killed when he returned to Colombia and it is widely believed the assassination was ordered by drug lords in retribution for gambling losses the loss to the USA team caused them.

22 June 1994

©Getty



DEFINING MOMENT

TRAFFIC CHAOS

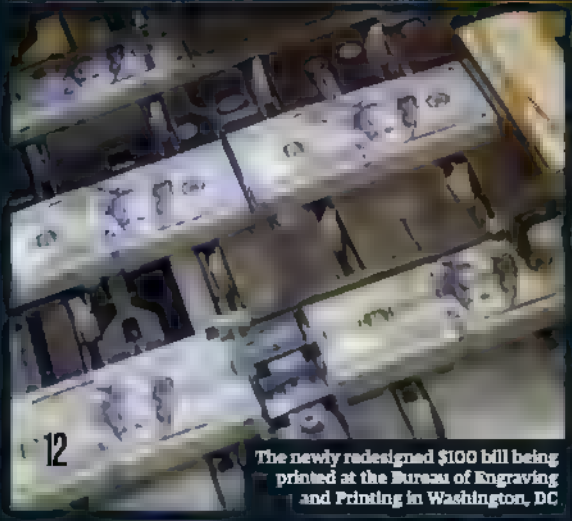
After years of debate, Sweden switched from driving on the left-hand side of the road to the right. As Sweden's neighbours, Norway and Finland, drove on the right while most Swedes drove left-hand cars it led to many head-on collisions. In 1963, the change was approved and an education program began. Accident numbers reduced after the switch, as drivers were more cautious.

3 September 1967

A depiction of a moneylender counting his coins

An early Italian money press, Rome, 1900

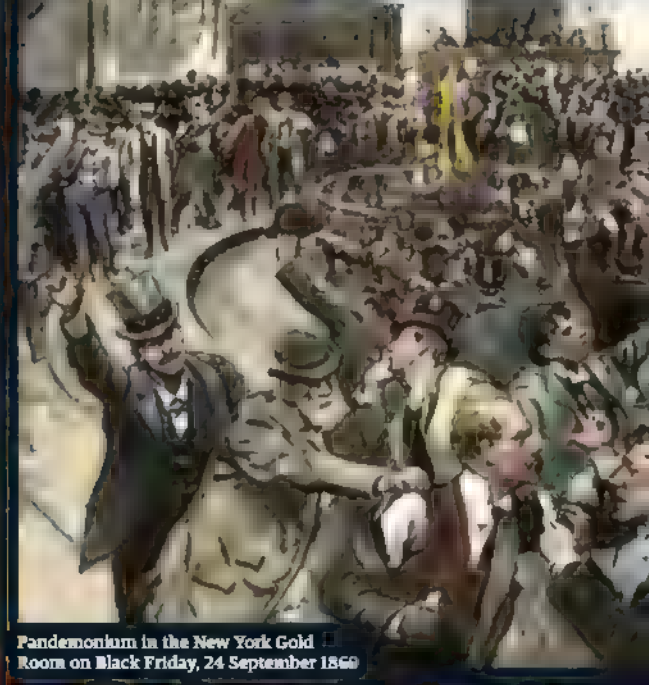
Wars have frequently been decided by money – here English Royalists levy taxes to finance the Civil War



The newly redesigned $100 bill being printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, DC

City of London stock traders, 1991

Hyperinflation in Germany: children look at thousands of Deutschmarks which are worth the single dollar the boy is holding



Pandemonium in the New York Gold Room on Black Friday, 24 September 1869

Money!

IT BUILDS, ADVANCES, CORRUPTS AND DESTROYS

Crowd gathers outside the New York Stock Exchange during the Crash of October 1929

The gold vault at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York

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22 Hall of fame
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Get the lowdown on how to pan for gold in the American Wild West in the 1850s and make your fame and fortune

26 Top 5 facts
Nathan Meyer Rothschild, founder and leader of a financial powerhouse

© Alamy, Look and Learn, Getty

Day in the life

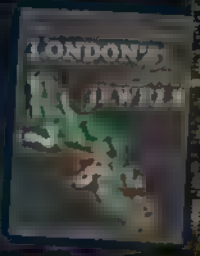
GOLDSMITH

CREATING AND FIXING JEWELLERY AND A HOST OF PRECIOUS METALS, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, 16TH CENTURY

By the early-16th century, the Cheapside area of London was bustling with retailers, most notably craftsmen looking to entice wealthy buyers. Goldsmiths stood out in particular, with their products highly sought after by the capital – and indeed, visiting Europeans' – elite, and by 1594 there were 55 goldsmiths, each looking to stand out from the crowd in this competitive market. With stonecutters from Germany enamellers from France and Huguenot goldsmiths moving to the area, there soon became an abundance of skilled craftsmen in this specific area of the city, all looking to make their fortune. We take a closer look into what life was like for a goldsmith at the time.

How do we know this?

Some of the information for this article comes from *London's Lost Hoard: The Cheapside Jewels* by Hazel Forsyth. Using the discovery of the 'Cheapside Hoard' of gems and jewels in 1912 as its springboard, it goes into great detail about the trade of precious stones during the Elizabethan and Stuart eras. While details regarding how the goldsmiths went about crafting the gold itself are thin on the ground, the lengths it goes to in order to paint vivid picture of what life was like in the bustling goldsmiths' quarters of London prove to be effective. In addition to the factual detail, a large number of anecdotes are provided which bring the area to life.



1 OPENING UP

One of the main goldsmiths' quarters was located in Cheapside, London, in an area known as Goldsmiths Row. The Goldsmiths' Company made sure workshops were located close together in order to make it easier for them to keep track of business.

2 LIGHTING THE FURNACE

With the ability to heat metal to high temperatures being a vital component of the gold-making process, a lit furnace was required to last for the entire day. Usually, one of the head goldsmith's apprentices would be put in charge of lighting the furnace and keeping it aflame throughout the day.

3 SETTING UP SHOP

The products were set up depending on the amount of space available. Often a small amount of jewellery was kept on display, hanging on parchments or on a bar across the window, with everything else kept hidden away.

4 MINOR REPAIR WORK

One of the most common tasks goldsmiths were called upon to do were basic repairs to jewellery like breakages, reattaching gems to the gold itself or numerous other alterations. This was generally done on the shop floor itself in front of the customers so they could observe.

A Goldsmith works while customers peer over his shoulder

5 COMPLEX REPAIR WORK

For more complex tasks that required tighter security, work would usually take place either in the back room or in the upper-floor workshop. This ensured it occurred well away from the prying eyes of customers and rival goldsmiths and was safe from any would-be robbers.

TESTING GOLD PURITY

This was a vital part of the job and done by scratching a streak of gold onto black Lydian stone, and then washing it with a dilute solution of acid. As gold is insoluble in all but the strongest acids this experiment would indicate its purity and gave birth to the phrase 'acid test'

SETTLING DISPUTES

With a large number of goldsmiths in close proximity it was inevitable that there would be disputes. Recorded examples are of someone funnelling smoke from his furnace into the street and other shops and a goldsmith having his wall damaged by a neighbour digging up soil.

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

After the working day all that was left was to pull down the shutters, tidy up and go home, if the head goldsmith lived elsewhere. In the larger buildings, the cellars often doubled up as bedrooms for the apprentices, in addition to providing extra storage space.

© Corbis Alamy

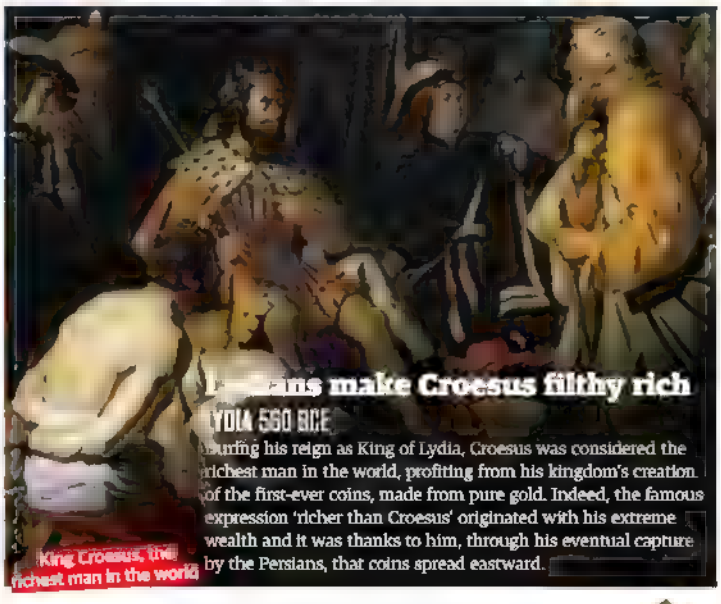
Money throughout history

MONEYLENDERS EXPELLED

JERUSALEM 30 CE

Despite banking originating in temples, which had been established over 3,000 years previously in the ancient Mesopotamian city of Babylon, the Bible records that one of Jesus' most marked actions while in Jerusalem was to throw all the moneylenders and changers out of a temple and onto the street. Banking in temples was commonplace, with wealthy nobles and aristocrats storing, changing and withdrawing money on a weekly or even daily basis.

Jesus expelling the moneylenders from Jerusalem's temple



King Croesus, the richest man in the world

...ians make Croesus filthy rich

LYDIA 560 BCE

During his reign as King of Lydia, Croesus was considered the richest man in the world, profiting from his kingdom's creation of the first-ever coins, made from pure gold. Indeed, the famous expression 'richer than Croesus' originated with his extreme wealth and it was thanks to him, through his eventual capture by the Persians, that coins spread eastward.

Money timeline

Cattle cash emerges
The earliest form of money comes in the form of domestic cattle, with tribes trading animals for resources, lands or other animals. The cattle's importance as a food source and labourer is the prime cause. **6000 BCE**

Cattle: food, labour force and currency

China's cowry cash
Large parts of China use cowry shells as currency, with the Chinese character for money originally represented by a cowry shell. They proceed to be used all around the world at some point as a form of currency. **1200 BCE**

The king of pennies
Offa, King of Mercia (an old kingdom of England) begins the first production of a silver penny coin. The vast number made means it becomes the dominant currency in all parts of England except Northumbria. **765 CE**

A penny from Offa's era

The prince of paper
During the reign of Chinese emperor Hien Tsung, a drastic shortage of precious metals leads the government to invent paper money notes, the first of their kind. By 1032 there are 16 paper money banks in China. **806 CE**

Peasants revolt against poll tax
After King Richard II of England levies a series of hugely unpopular poll taxes, English peasants revolt in a large uprising. The revolt is brutally suppressed with its leader, Wat Tyler, decapitated. **1381 CE**

King Richard II's taxes were hugely unpopular

6000 BCE — 3000 BCE — 500 BCE — 0 — 500 — 1000 — 1050 — 1200 — 1250 — 1300 — 1350

The bank of Babylon
Banks originate in ancient Mesopotamia, with temples and palaces becoming safe havens for currency and valuables. Grain, cattle and metals are stored along with direct currency. **3000 BCE**

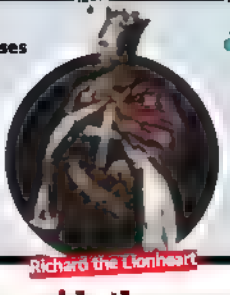
Lydian coins
The first true coins to be forged and used by humans start pouring out of Lydia in Asia Minor. They consist of electrum, a natural mix of gold and silver. By 550 BCE, coin use had spread to Greece and Persia. **635 BCE**

A Lydian coin

The taxing Augustus
Augustus Caesar reforms the Roman monetary and tax systems, introducing new coins and three brand-new sales, land and poll taxes. **30 BCE**

Augustus Caesar

The Lionheart privatises
To raise much-needed funds for his crusade to Jerusalem, King Richard the Lionheart sells many of his monarchy's assets off to private investors at home and on the continent. **1189 CE**



Richard the Lionheart

Lighter coins
In one of the first attempts of its kind, the weight of penny is reduced in England in an attempt to combat illegal coiners. It had been unchanged for centuries. **1344 CE**

The Domesday Book is compiled

ENGLAND 1086

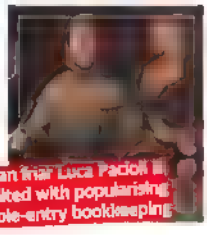
After William the Conqueror had taken England at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, he later implemented a process of determining just how wealthy his new country was. He did this with the Domesday Book, a manuscript recording what each landowner in England possessed so he could tax them accordingly and maximise his revenue. It was a key stepping stone in the country's financial development.

A page from the Domesday Book

Double-entry bookkeeping goes large

ITALY 1494

Double-entry bookkeeping - an accounting system where every financial entry requires a corresponding entry to help improve accuracy - was used in Italy for almost 100 years prior to its publication, but the release of Luca Pacioli's *Summa de Arithmetica, Geometrica, Proportioni et Proportionalita* was a landmark moment in finance. It helped spread and popularise the method throughout Europe.

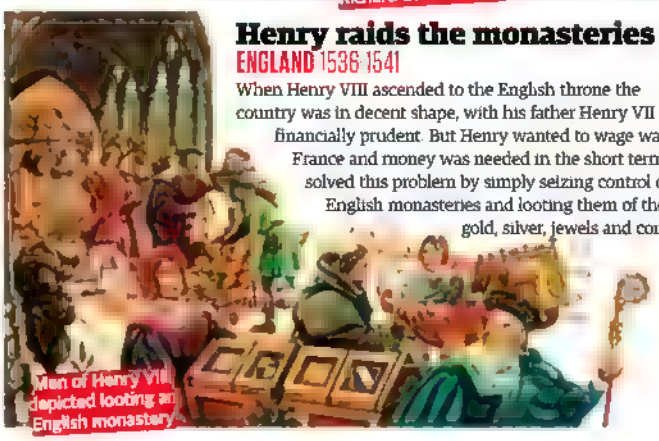


Italian friar Luca Pacioli is credited with popularising double-entry bookkeeping

Henry raids the monasteries

ENGLAND 1536-1541

When Henry VIII ascended to the English throne the country was in decent shape, with his father Henry VII being financially prudent. But Henry wanted to wage war with France and money was needed in the short term. He solved this problem by simply seizing control of the English monasteries and looting them of their gold, silver, jewels and coins.



Men of Henry VIII depicted looting an English monastery

Royal Bank of Scotland's head office in modern times

The RBS and overdrafts founded

SCOTLAND 1727

In 1727, the Royal Bank of Scotland was founded, introducing a cash credit system where specific members could withdraw cash loans, with interest only charged on the withdrawn amount. This system was soon copied by other banks in England and then Europe and became the origin of the modern overdraft system, where individuals can extend and adjust their credit limit on a personal bank account.

Economic miracle

JAPAN 1950-1970

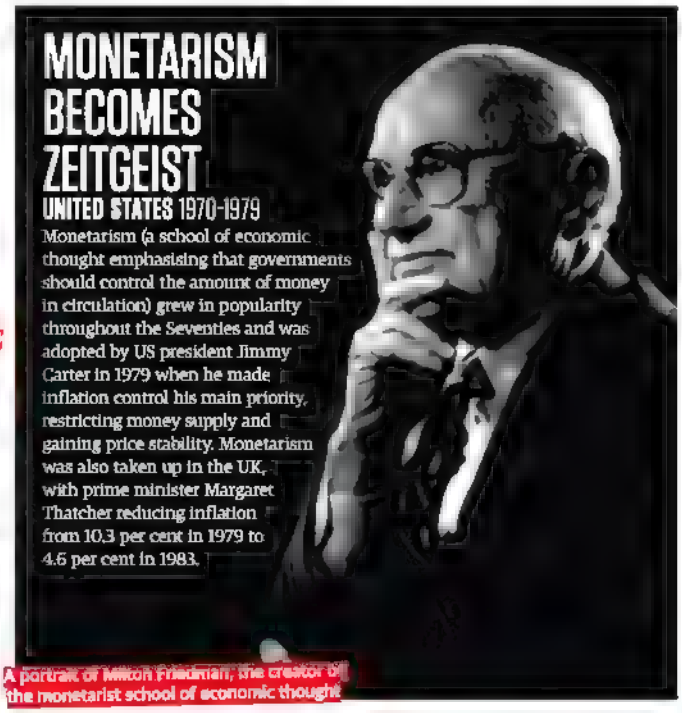
Despite suffering greatly in World War II, Japan saw annual economic growth of 9.2 per cent on average throughout the Fifties. Financial experts were stunned as through the Sixties that average growth rose to 10.7 per cent annually. This 20-year period is now referred to as the 'Japanese post-war economic miracle' and only really ended with the bursting of the Japanese asset price bubble in 1991. Today, much of this period of financial success is attributed to the nation switching to become primarily an export economy.

Tokyo Stock Exchange, 1950

MONETARISM BECOMES ZEITGEIST

UNITED STATES 1970-1979

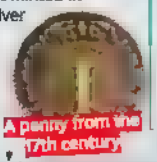
Monetarism (a school of economic thought emphasising that governments should control the amount of money in circulation) grew in popularity throughout the Seventies and was adopted by US president Jimmy Carter in 1979 when he made inflation control his main priority, restricting money supply and gaining price stability. Monetarism was also taken up in the UK, with prime minister Margaret Thatcher reducing inflation from 10.3 per cent in 1979 to 4.6 per cent in 1983.


A portrait of Milton Friedman, the creator of the monetarist school of economic thought

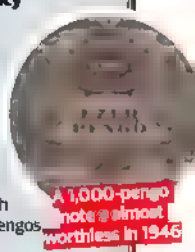
- **China abandons paper money** Despite over 500 years of paper money circulation in China, it is eventually removed from use, probably due to severe cycles of hyperinflation. **1455 CE**
- **The Royal Exchange is built** Due to the increase in importance of banking and foreign currency exchanges the Royal Exchange is built in London, England. Interbank dealing begins. **1566 CE**

An illustration of the Royal Exchange

- **Act of Union** The Acts of Union in 1707, implemented to unite the countries of England and Scotland, mandate a single currency to be used. A large recoining process leads to a shortfall in coins and increase in paper notes. **1707 CE**
- **The last of the silver pennies** After almost 1,100 years of use, the English silver penny is made obsolete, with the last minted in this year. Silver is still used for higher-value coins. **1820 CE**


A penny from the 17th century

- **Postal Orders invented** Postal Orders are invented in England and used as type of quasi-legal currency for over a decade. After the outbreak of World War I, they are legalised and see a rapid increase in usage. **1881 CE**
- **Hungarian currency explodes** After suffering the worst-ever case of hyperinflation, the Hungarian economy explodes, with a single Hungarian gold pengo from 1931 suddenly worth 130 trillion paper pengos. **1946 CE**


A 1,000-pengo note, almost worthless in 1946

1400 | 1500 | 1600 | 1700 | 1800 | 1850 | 1900 | 2000 | 2014

- **Loan sharks legalised** Italian moneylenders charge interest rates on loans after a court case legalises interest payments by the Florentine government. Charging interest becomes standard in Europe. **1403 CE**
- **Cocoa currency** Hernan Cortés conquers the Aztec and Mayan civilisations and discovers their forms of currency include gold dust and cocoa beans, the latter traded en masse in large sacks. **1519 CE**

Gold was part of the Aztec currency

- **The dollar is developed** Following the American War of Independence, the US Constitution stipulates that money-creation powers do not lie with the individual states but with Congress. In 1792 the dollar is adopted as the official US currency. **1789 CE**
- **The Great Crash** On 24 October 1929, the New York stock market crashes. Banks stop lending in its aftermath and thousands of businesses go bankrupt. **1929 CE**

A view of Wall Street during the Great Crash

- **Virtual cash** Digital currency Bitcoin is launched as open-sourced software. Bitcoins are created by a process called mining and users send and receive them on a computer, mobile device or web application **2009 CE**

FINANCIAL MELTDOWN USA 2008

Considered the largest financial crisis ever to occur on Earth, the global financial crisis of 2008 has left almost every national economy reeling, with the general public suffering the brunt of the fallout, with zero financial growth severely affecting living standards. The crash was catalysed by the collapse of the US housing market, which had been artificially inflated by gross lending practices. This collapse caused the value of securities tied to US real estate pricing to plummet, with the loss in value damaging all financial institutions.

The biggest of those was Lehman Brothers, the fourth-largest investment bank in the US. When Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy, they had holdings in excess of $600 billion (£362 billion). This scale of collapse was unprecedented, even surpassing the cataclysmic Wall Street crash of 1929. Just like that crash, the fallout was severe, with financial institutions suddenly ceasing almost all lending and national governments imposing severe public spending cuts that are still in place today, six years later.

New York Stock Exchange

© Look and Learn/Corbis, Mary Evans

How to MAKE COINS

ROMAN EMPIRE
300 BCE-476 CE

A COIN MAKER'S KIT
Hammer
One of the main tools used in the process. As coins were made individually, striking them was a very laborious process.
Tongs
The tongs were used to hold the die over the anvil by one man, while another worker wielded his hammer
Coins
After being completed, the coins were bagged up and sent into circulation.
Slaves
Slaves undertook many of the more mundane tasks.

FIVE TYPES OF ROMAN COINS

AUREUS
ROME

This gold coin was the most valuable in the Roman Empire, being worth 25 Denarius, and was primarily used for large payments.

DENARIUS
ROME

Worth four of the Sesterius, it was first minted in 211 BCE during the Second Punic War, but declined in quality until going out of circulation in the 3rd century CE.

SESTERIUS
ROME

Worth four of the As, this coin changed drastically from being small and silver during the years of the Republic to being made of brass in the age of the Empire.

AS
ROME

Corresponding to four Quadrans, it changed from bronze to copper over the years, and endured into the days of the Byzantine Empire, being eventually replaced in 1367.

QUADRANS
ROME

Made of bronze, Quadrans became the lowest-valued coin in 90 BCE and rarely bore the image of the emperor, unlike other coins.

With an empire the size of the Romans', the implementation of an efficient monetary system was vital. The vast quantities of coins found by archaeologists have proven to be of great use in informing us about the Roman way of life, but having been found in such abundance, it does beg the question of how they were able to produce such large quantities of coins and why some have remained in better condition than others. Read on and learn about making the currency of one of the most prosperous empires in history...

01 Get the right metal

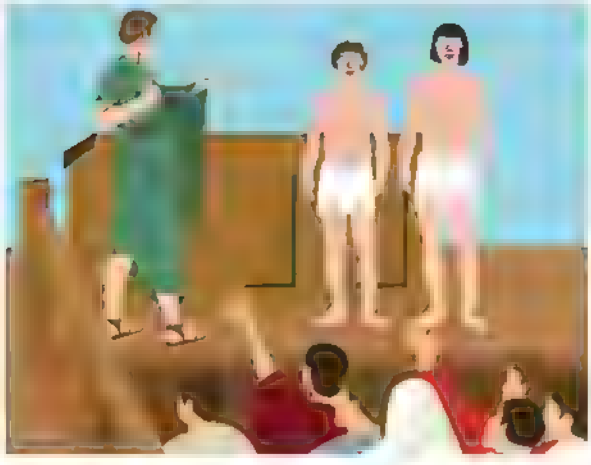
First, obtain the metal with which to make your coins, which will most likely be either copper, silver or gold. Make sure the material is of decent quality to ensure that they will be accepted by those in power and so archaeologists thousands of years from now will be impressed with your craftsmanship.

02 Find the right tools

A good workman is nothing without his tools, and for the coin-making process you will need a number of things to ensure the job can be done. These include blanks, tongs for handling the blanks and dies to imprint the coins pattern, as well as a supply of hammers and anvils for your workforce to use.

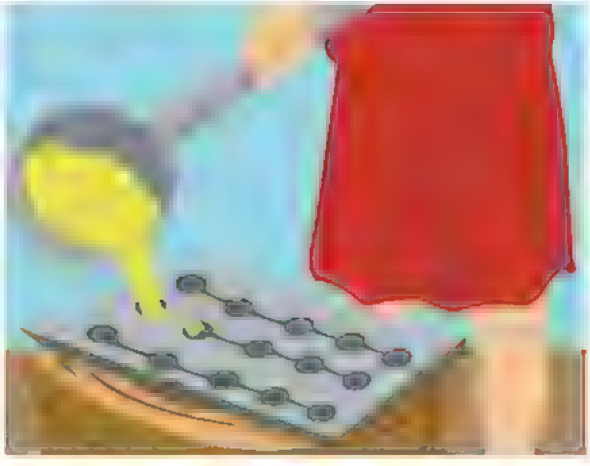
How not to... maintain the quality of a currency

The Antoninianus is a tragic example of manufacturing quality falling due to declining economic fortunes. Originally made of silver, production of the coin was hit with the gradual but constant depletion of silver mines, and with the Roman Empire not conquering any new territory, this situation did not improve with time. Ultimately, emperors still needed to pay their subjects, so they gradually reduced the quantities of silver in the coins, instead adding increasingly larger quantities of bronze into the mix. The increasing of its average weight in 271 CE was carried out for a short time before being abandoned, and by the end of the 3rd century the coins were made almost entirely out of copper that had been melted down from other old and obsolete coins – which by this point the Antoninianus had all but become.



03 Find a decent labour force

If you want to produce coins in a quick and efficient manner you will need good workers. For the more basic tasks – such as heating the blanks and hammering the anvils – slaves will do just fine and can be picked up at an auction, but more skilled artisans who require payment will be needed for the finer details



04 Create the dies

Either roll up the metal into a sheet and stamp in round blanks, or just pour the metal into ready-made moulds. Engrave your chosen image (usually whoever the current emperor is, or something celebrating or commemorating a particular occasion) on your dies into the metal, before heating it and then letting it cool

05 Add the finer details

Use the various hand tools that you should already have at your disposal (see Step 2) to craft all the various intricate details onto the die. Once both dies (the two sides of the coin) have been completed, put one on an anvil and the other on a hand-operated punch. Then it is time to start hammering away

06 Package and deliver them

After the coins have cooled down enough for you to be able to handle them safely bag them up with the others and send them off to be delivered to the Roman treasury where they will eventually enter circulation. Congratulations for assisting in the continued prosperity of the Roman Empire

OCCASIONS CELEBRATED BY ROMAN COINS

MURDER OF CAESAR

ROME, 44 BCE

The murder of the most famous Roman of all time was commemorated by Brutus.

VERCINGETORIX'S REBELLION

GAUL, 46 BCE

The chieftain of the Arverni tribe united Gaul in revolt, before being defeated and executed.

BATTLE OF ACTIUM

IONIAN SEA, GREECE, 31 BCE

This naval engagement saw future emperor Octavian defeat the forces led by Mark Antony and his lover, Cleopatra of Egypt.

CORONATION OF EMPEROR CLAUDIUS

ROME, 41 BCE

After the assassination of Caligula by the Praetorian Guard, Claudius was made emperor

THE Anatomy of A YUPPIE

YOUNG UPWARDLY-MOBILE PROFESSIONAL, 1985, USA

FIRST GENERATION MOBILE PHONE

THE LATEST IN MODERN TECHNOLOGY

The mobile phone is one of the most important bits of kit in the armoury of the yuppie – a term credited to journalist and lecturer Joseph Epstein. Not only does its high price and exclusivity suit them but it's vital they can always be contacted by the office. In 1985 mobile phones operated under first-generation, analogue technology

COFFEE

LEGAL STIMULATION ON THE GO

In 1985 coffee chains weren't yet prevalent across the US but the trend for takeaway coffee had begun. These could be picked up at local cafes and would provide a caffeine fix on the way to work or a meeting.

DESIGNER BRIEFCASE

FOR STORING GYM KIT, IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND FAXES

As yuppies were often on the go it was vital they had a briefcase to store their belongings. This could include gym kit – it was important to be physically fit – as well as important documents from the office. The use of computer technology was not yet widespread in 1985 so this would often contain print-outs of faxes, one of the main methods of business communication.

SLICKED HAIR

THE MORE PRODUCT, THE BETTER

While the economic boom in USA led to the proliferation of the yuppie, their hairstyle was used to differentiate them from other social groups. Hair slicked back was sufficiently different from the long-haired 'hippy' and the short cut of the military.

ROLEX WATCH

AS MUCH A STATUS SYMBOL AS A TIMEPIECE

The US suffered a recession in 1982 but a year later the economy was recovering and enjoyed a period of growth, with the annual inflation rate under 5 per cent for much of the decade. Yuppies liked to flaunt their wealth, so the more ostentatious the watch, the better

WALLET

STUFFED WITH 50 DOLLAR BILLS

The easing of government regulations on businesses meant that this was a boom time for those looking to make money and the stock market enjoyed a golden period. A wallet would be filled with money, preferably ones featuring 18th US president Ulysses S Grant

ARMANI SUIT

IT ISN'T ENOUGH TO BE THE PART, YOU NEED TO LOOK THE PART

To be a yuppie you had to dress well, with designer labels a must. For women this often meant high-powered business dresses with large shoulder pads while for men the uniform of choice was often a pinstripe suit from an expensive designer, finished off with some braces and sometimes, for that final flourish of flair, a handkerchief in the top pocket.

© Ian Jackson/The Art Agency

ANNOUNCING THE NEW

FIRST WORLD WAR

CENTENARY £5 COIN

NEW FOR 2014

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The Centenary of the First World War £5 Coin is the perfect heirloom to hand down to your children and grandchildren to ensure we never forget the 16 million who gave their lives during the conflict. As the coin so poignantly reminds us, ***"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."***

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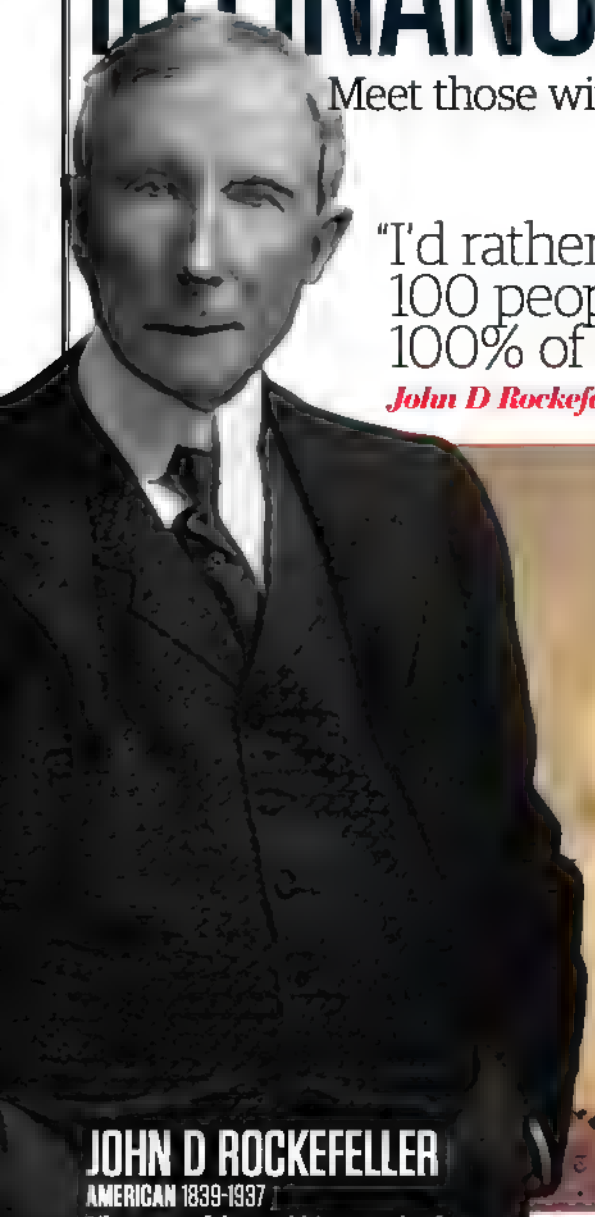
Hall of fame

10 FINANCIAL HEAVYWEIGHTS

Meet those with the power to make or break economies



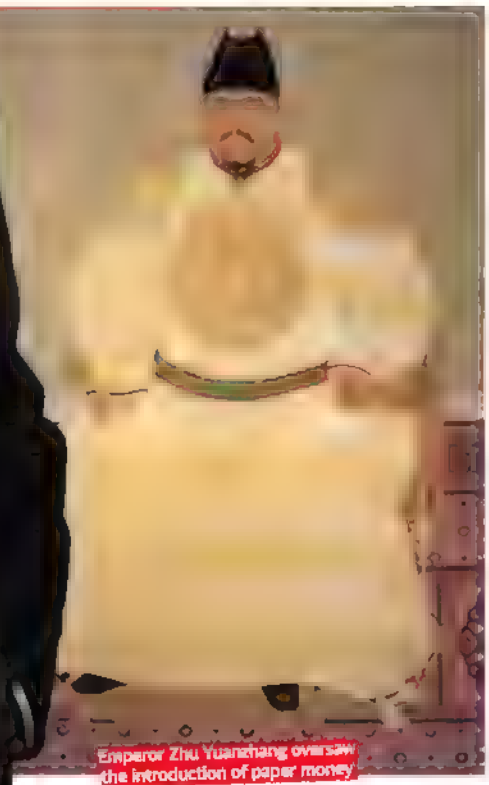
"I'd rather earn 1% off a 100 people's efforts than 100% of my own efforts"

John D Rockefeller

JOHN D ROCKEFELLER

AMERICAN 1839-1937

Like many of the wealthiest people of the 19th and 20th centuries, Rockefeller made his fortune in oil. He was the son of a peddler, became a commission house (a firm that buys and sells contracts) clerk at 16 and by his mid-twenties saw where to make real money in oil: the refining business. Unlike his competitors, his company, Standard Oil of Ohio, created tradable goods like paint and Vaseline out of oil by-products. He monopolised the oil industry and was frequently at odds with the government, who sought to break his grip on the nation.



Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang oversaw the introduction of paper money

Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang

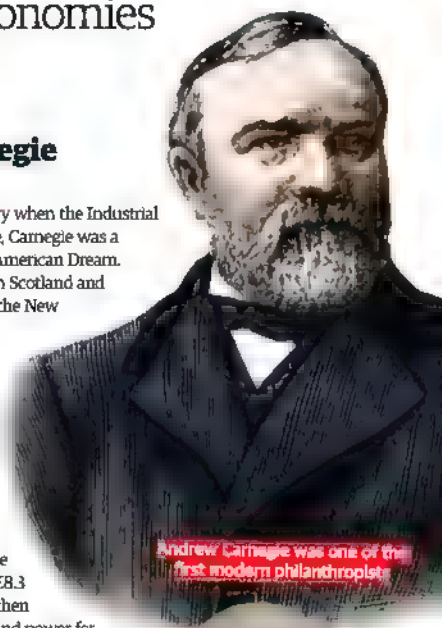
CHINESE 1328 1398

We think of the banknote as a modern invention but the ancient Chinese civilizations actually got there a long time ago. Following the disintegration of the Mongols, the first Ming emperor, Zhu Yuanzhang, launched paper currency in order to encourage a more stable and profitable society. Along with it, an imperial board of revenue and a treasure note control bureau. Notes were worth 1,000 copper coins and forgery was punishable by death. However the real problem was maintaining the value of the notes: after 15 years each note was worth just 250 copper because the treasury had printed far too many. By 1425 the government had given up on paper money as an experiment that simply had not worked.

Andrew Carnegie

SCOTTISH 1835 1919

A leader of the steel industry when the Industrial Revolution had hit its stride, Carnegie was a living embodiment of the American Dream. He was born into poverty in Scotland and moved with his parents to the New World in 1848. His career began as a telegrapher on the railroads and he poured the money he earned back into them, while selling US bonds to Europe. He's best known for the Carnegie Steel Company, which he sold to banker JP Morgan for nearly $500 million – the equivalent of $13.5 billion (£8.3 billion) today – in 1901. He then used his immense wealth and power for philanthropic pursuits until his death.

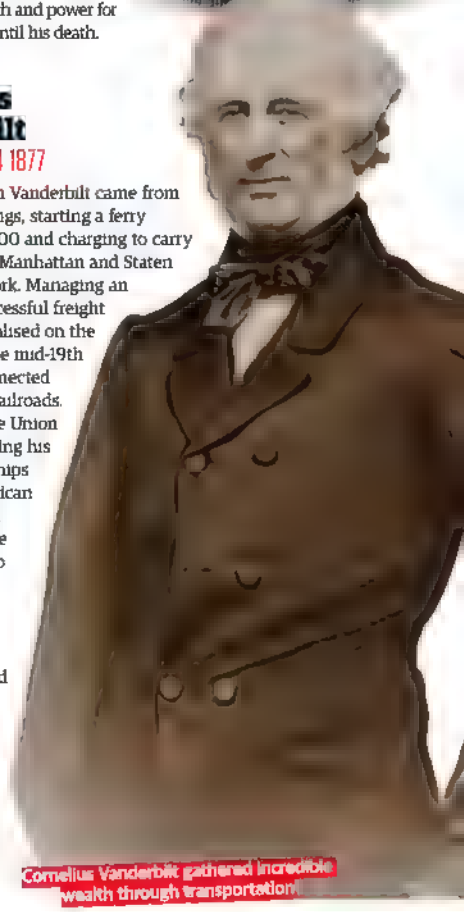


Andrew Carnegie was one of the first modern philanthropists

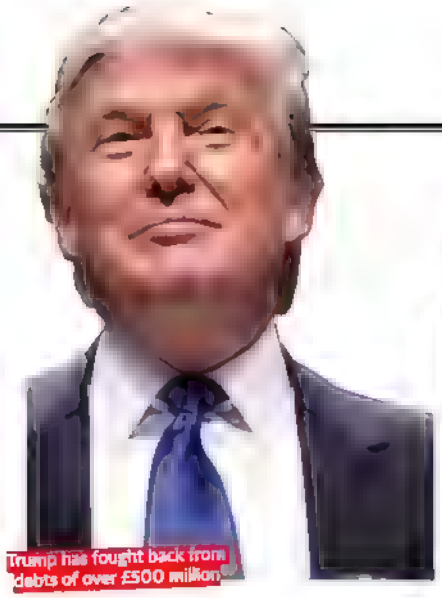
Cornelius Vanderbilt

AMERICAN 1794 1877

Transport tycoon Vanderbilt came from humble beginnings, starting a ferry business with $100 and charging to carry people between Manhattan and Staten Island in New York. Managing an increasingly successful freight service, he capitalised on the gold rushes of the mid-19th century and connected his ferries with railroads. He supported the Union Navy by converting his ferries into warships during the American Civil War in 1861 and following the conflict, began to expand his rail infrastructure, building the forerunner to New York's Grand Central Station. Vanderbilt's fortune would be worth the astronomical equivalent of $150 billion (£92 billion) in today's money.



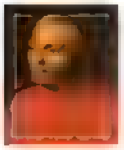
Cornelius Vanderbilt gathered incredible wealth through transportation



Trump has fought back from debts of over £500 million

Donald Trump
AMERICAN 1946 PRESENT

Trump was strongly influenced by his father – who worked in real-estate development – and after graduating joined his business. His ambitions were grand and when he moved to New York he became involved in a number of large building projects. The $200-million (£120-million) Trump Towers opened in 1982 and the entrepreneur also moved into the highly profitable area of gambling. When the real estate market plummeted he had to fight to save the business but it climbed back from massive debts of $900 million (£540 million). The star of *The Apprentice* is now estimated to be worth just under $3 billion (£1.8 billion).



Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici
ITALIAN 1360 1429

The House of Medici was one of the most powerful families during the Renaissance. Much of its power can be attributed to its finances via the Medici bank, which was founded by Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici. He established the bank as a genuine power, and by backing the return of the papacy to Rome the new Pope lavished the family with lucrative contracts.

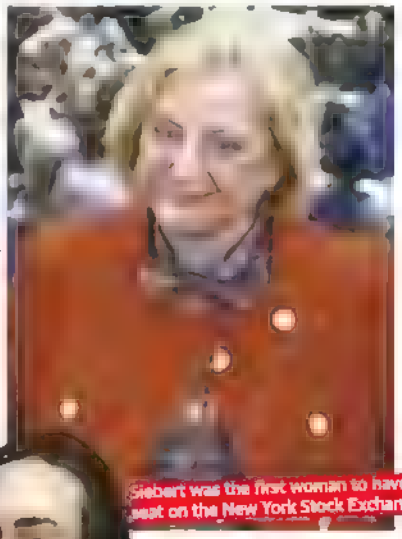
Oppenheimer solidified the De Beers' diamond monopoly

Ernest Oppenheimer
GERMAN 1880 1957

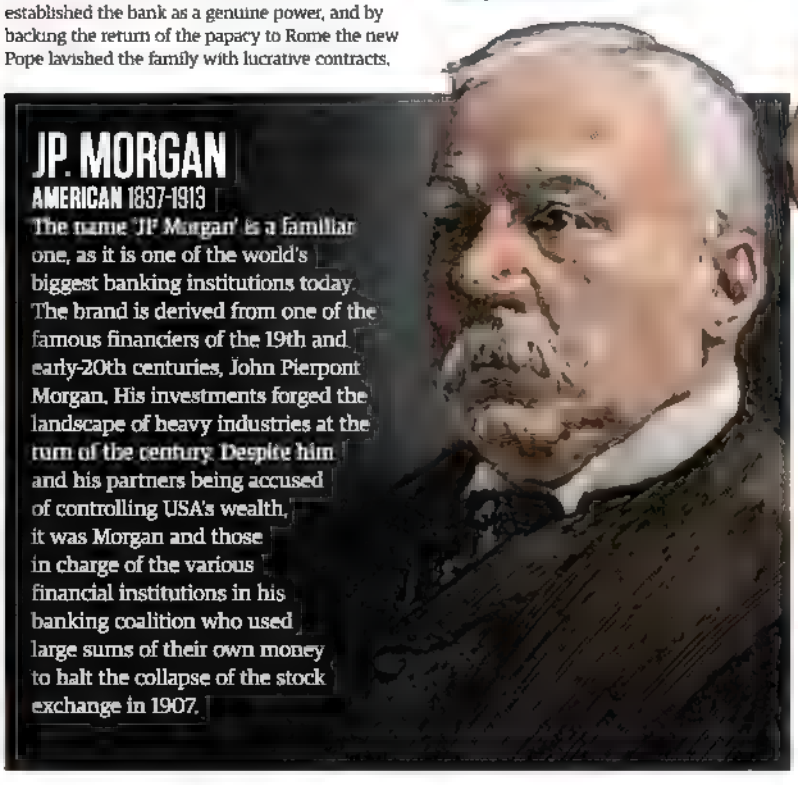
Ernest began as a London diamond broker before moving to South Africa to buy diamonds in Kimberley. He become mayor and he forced a takeover of the De Beers diamond company, which controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production. De Beers had a history of monopoly but under Oppenheimer's chairmanship this was taken to a new level. The company convinced competitors to join its monopoly, artificially inflate prices by stockpiling diamonds and flood the market with diamonds similar to those of any diamond producers who refused to join the cartel.

Muriel Siebert
AMERICAN 1928 2013

Known as the 'first woman of finance' Siebert truly is a financial pioneer. Following the death of her father she quit her accounting degree and moved to Wall Street to make money for her family. She started at the bottom but her shrewd financial insight meant she was soon promoted. However, this was Wall Street in the Sixties and sexism was rife; other male analysts with worse numbers than her were getting promoted. She then set her sights on buying a seat on the New York Stock Exchange and running her own brokerage firm. It took her ten tries before she found a sponsor, but on December 28 1967, she became the first woman to own a seat on the exchange.

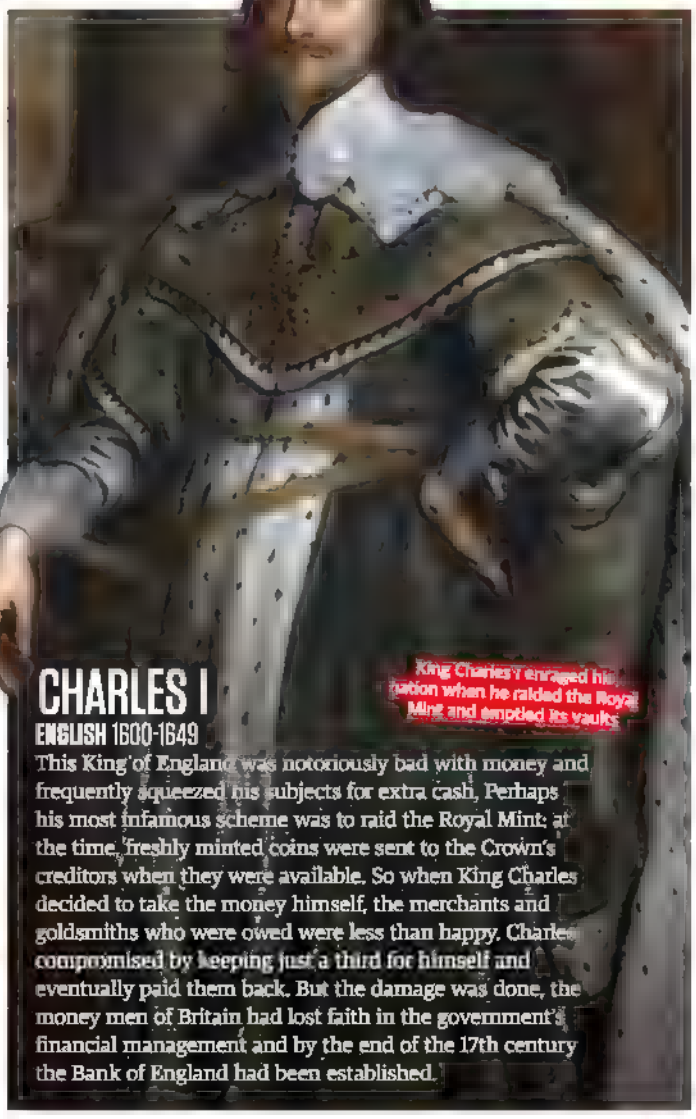


Siebert was the first woman to have a seat on the New York Stock Exchange



JP. MORGAN
AMERICAN 1837-1913

The name 'JP Morgan' is a familiar one, as it is one of the world's biggest banking institutions today. The brand is derived from one of the famous financiers of the 19th and early-20th centuries, John Pierpont Morgan. His investments forged the landscape of heavy industries at the turn of the century. Despite him and his partners being accused of controlling USA's wealth, it was Morgan and those in charge of the various financial institutions in his banking coalition who used large sums of their own money to halt the collapse of the stock exchange in 1907.



King Charles I enraged his nation when he raided the Royal Mint and emptied its vaults

CHARLES I
ENGLISH 1600-1649

This King of England was notoriously bad with money and frequently squeezed his subjects for extra cash. Perhaps his most infamous scheme was to raid the Royal Mint: at the time, freshly minted coins were sent to the Crown's creditors when they were available. So when King Charles decided to take the money himself, the merchants and goldsmiths who were owed were less than happy. Charles compromised by keeping just a third for himself and eventually paid them back. But the damage was done, the money men of Britain had lost faith in the government's financial management and by the end of the 17th century the Bank of England had been established.

Who did we miss out?
Let us know /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag

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INSIDE HISTORY

PANNING FOR GOLD

TRYING TO STRIKE IT LUCKY IN THE GOLD RUSH, USA, 1850

"There were riches to be made, with reports of gold nuggets being gleefully plucked from river beds"

09 Dragging
Mules were frequently employed to drag large stones that were too heavy for people to lift. They were also used to break other quartz stones by dragging them over a drop, thus releasing the gold within.

01 Encampments
The conditions of those panning for gold were generally very poor and led to the death of many workers. Epidemics and illnesses killed thousands.

02 By hand
Resources and tools were scarce but this didn't discourage many workers, who simply used their hands to pan for gold.

03 Pan
Those looking to make their fortune learned that the swirling movement of the pan allowed for the separation of sediments and that gold could be identified by a significant difference in weight.

04 Immigrants
The promise of wealth attracted a lot of immigrants. In particular, many Chinese came to make their fortune and constituted a large proportion of the labour force

The discovery of gold in the Sacramento River in California in the mid-19th century by American carpenter and sawmill operator James W Marshall started one of the largest migrations of its time. Over 300,000 people from the US and abroad travelled to California, lured by the promise of plucking gold from its rivers and streams.

For those fortunate – or geographically close – enough to get to California early on there were riches to made, with reports of gold nuggets being gleefully plucked from river beds. However, as large numbers started to converge it became increasingly difficult to find the treasure they desired, so techniques such as 'panning for gold' were used. Relatively few actually achieved their dream of striking it rich, though.

Panning had been used since ancient times and, while effective, was extremely labour intensive. As news of the potential riches spread, increasingly large companies came to the area and the methods used to extract gold became increasingly costly and sophisticated, meaning those panning for gold by themselves were at a severe disadvantage. Each year, obtaining gold required a larger investment of time and equipment, so equipment suppliers were the ones who ultimately enjoyed the highest profit in their pockets.

The gold rush had a significant impact on the United States and especially on California. San Francisco transformed from an unimportant small settlement to a town with over 35,000 residents by 1852 and in response to the booming population, churches, schools and homes sprung up around the area. At its peak, up to 30 new houses were being built each day. California became a state in 1850 and soon became the USA's wealthiest one and home of other American industries.

How do we know this?

There is a lot of information about this time period from first-hand sources who were themselves involved in the gold rush in California. The book *The California Gold Rush: The History And Legacy Of The Forty-Niners And America's Golden Dream* includes many of these primary accounts as well as maps of the main areas where would-be prospectors tried to strike gold. Another excellent book is John David Borthwick's *Three Years In California*. A young artist from Scotland, he was one of the adventurous men who came to California. He spent three years in 'The Golden State', at first mining and then using his artistic talents to capture the life of the pioneers with pencil and paper as he explored the Sierra mining camps and the towns popping up to meet the expanding population. After returning to Europe, he published his book, which remains one of the classic first-person accounts of the period.

A man leans over a wooden sluice in California at the turn of the 20th century

08 Sluice box
Water flowed through the artificial canal, where riffles (barriers) along the bottom of the sluice box caught the gold while letting the other material pass through.

06 Dry river
In 1853, $3 million was invested to change the course of the Yuba River, which merged with the Sacramento River. The water of the new canal was used to wash the gold.

05 Hopper
The gravel was placed in the hopper and the deposited material was moved with a lever. When water was added to it, the dirt could be carried away, leaving the gold at the barrier, since the density of gold is greater than that of water.

07 Return to the river
Once the water had been used to pan for gold, it was channelled back into the river from which it came.

© Getty Images

Top 5 facts NATHAN MAYER ROTHSCHILD

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL BANKERS
LONDON, 1777-1836

01 FINANCIAL DOMINATOR
He cemented the firm's position as the world's foremost finance group, by trading in gold bullion, purchasing government bonds and loaning vast sums of money to entire states. Many governments, including the British, Greek and American, were firmly reliant on the group for their funding.

02 He averted a financial meltdown in Britain
From 1824, Rothschild's position in the economic heart of the world, London, was unparalleled His influence on the Bank of England was such that he was even able to bring the entire country from the brink of a financial crisis, depositing vast funds when several failures threatened a run on England's reserves.

03 His agents were everywhere
His family's network spanned Europe and was so extensive that he was better informed than many governments at the time. While he often used this advantage to give him the upper hand in business deals, he was also the first in London to hear of Wellington's victory at Waterloo in 1815.

04 Helped Wellington defeat Napoleon
When the British government needed a large sum of coin to pay Wellington's soldiers based in Portugal in 1814, Rothschild was approached to buy and secretly transport the raw bullion across Europe. By 1818, the Rothschild group was worth nine times more than in 1815, of which Nathan held a majority share After the wars he provided loans to help rebuild the nations crippled by fighting.

05 Partly funded the emancipation of slaves
In 1835, Rothschild helped finance around £15 million to compensate plantation owners in Jamaica and elsewhere, who were unwilling to free their slaves. The Slavery Abolition Act had been passed in 1833 but many slave owners were often reluctant to comply and thus monetary compensation was required.

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"Her story appealed to his love of astrology and fortune-telling and besides, he desperately needed any help he could get"

Heroes & Villains

Joan of Arc

The teenage martyr who led the French army and put the fear of God into the English

Written by Jonathan Hatfull

A young woman whose faith led her to challenge kings and inspire armies, Joan of Arc's devout belief that God had appointed her to lead the French to victory against the British drove her from the village of her birth and onto the battlefield. In her brief time she became a national figurehead, a symbol. It was an image she cultivated and encouraged and one that would ultimately lead to her death.

Flames secured Joan's martyrdom, just as they provoked her fierce patriotism. Jehanne D'Arc, or la Pucelle (the Maid) as she came to be known, was born in 1412 in the village of Domrémy, located across the river from Burgundy territory. The Burgundians, allies of the British, regularly attacked French territory. In July 1428, Joan's family fled a raid and returned to find the enemy had burned their town, fields and church. Joan had heard angelic voices since the age of 12 or 13, urging her to remain pious, but now they gave her a specific mission. The voices of Archangel Michael, St Catherine and St Margaret directed her to go into France and find her king, the Dauphin Charles.

She claimed to have her first vision at the age of 12 when St Catherine, St Michael and St Margaret appeared to her in a field

The alliance between Britain and Burgundy had kept Charles from claiming the French crown. His enemies not only occupied Paris, but also held the city of Reims, where coronations took place. The crown would have to wait, however, as the French city of Orléans was currently in the grip of a protracted siege. Orléans needed help and Joan believed she was the one to deliver it. On 13 May 1428, the sixteen-year-old arrived in Vaucouleurs and begged Robert de Baudricourt, the captain of the garrison, to give her a military escort to Charles' court at Chinon. Baudricourt replied that she should be taken home and beaten. However, Joan would not be deterred and returned in January the next year.

She claimed she was the subject of a prophecy from 1398, about a maid who would "deliver the kingdom of France from the enemy." Baudricourt turned her down again, but her efforts were gaining traction. She gained favour with local nobility, particularly the Duke of Lorraine. Although Joan refused to attempt to cure his gout, the Duke agreed to give her a small escort and in February she travelled in men's clothes to Chinon, where she was presented to the court.

Charles was cautious but curious. Taking advice from a mad heretic could be devastating to his campaign, but her story appealed to his love of astrology and fortune-telling and besides, he desperately needed any help he could get. Joan immediately picked him out from the crowd and pledged her allegiance: "Most illustrious Lord Dauphin, I come and am sent from God to give assistance to you and the kingdom." He was impressed, but ordered she be tested before giving any official credence to her claims. One of the key figures in these trials was Yolande of Aragon, one of the true powers behind Charles and an intelligent strategist. After Joan's maidenhood was proved, she faced questions from clergy and theologians and passed with flying colours. Whether or not they truly believed in her voices was irrelevant. Charles now had a messenger of God, and Yolande raised a convoy for this messenger to lead.

In April 1429, Joan rode out, holding her white standard and wearing a suit of armour commissioned

Joan of Arc at the Coronation of Charles VII

Life in the time of Joan of Arc

The Black Death

From 1348 to 1350, the Black Death ravaged England, claiming the lives of some 1.5 million people. Carried by fleas, in turn carried by the rats infesting London, the bubonic plague spread through overpopulated towns and cities. England's economy and resources would feel its effects for decades to come.

Emissaries from God

Joan of Arc was not the first woman to claim the heavenly host had spoken to her. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) railed against corruption in the clergy, St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) claimed to be able to hear and see Mass on the wall of her room when she was too ill to move, and Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) travelled Italy urging states to make peace with Rome.

From bows to cannons

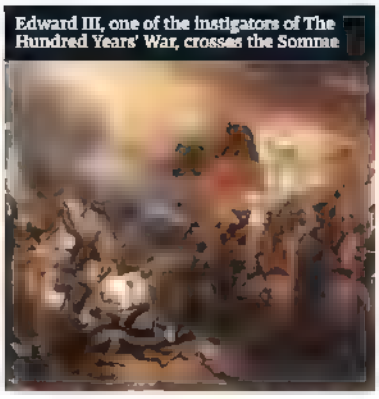
As the Hundred Years' War raged on through the decades, the technology of warfare began to change. The English longbows at Agincourt in 1415 were the difference between victory and defeat, but as open battles were often replaced by lengthy sieges, cannon fire became a deciding factor. By the siege of Orléans both sides deployed cannons.

Heresy trials

The definition of heresy covers a great deal of sins, but the term boils down to denying any established Christian dogma. In the Middle Ages, heresy trials became more common and the Catholic Church aggressively pursued any enemies. This continued into the 16th century, with Copernican scholars accused of heresy.

The Bavarian Hussites

Czech religious reformer Jan Huss was burned at the stake in 1415 for heresy. After his death, the Hussite movement was born, separating itself from Rome. The Hussites declared that communion should be given with bread and wine, they believed in poverty of the priesthood, punishment of sinners and freedom of preaching. The Pope announced a crusade against them in 1420.


Edward III, one of the instigators of The Hundred Years' War, crosses the Somme

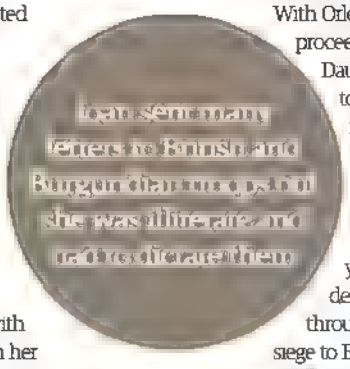
The Hundred Years' War, 1337-1453

After William the Conqueror defeated Harold at Hastings in 1066 and claimed the English throne, English and Norman territories were combined. It was inevitably difficult to keep control of the taken land. By the reign of English King Edward III in 1327, only Gascony and Ponthieu remained. When the French King Charles IV died heirless, Edward believed his mother and Charles' sister Isabella was the next in line, meaning the crown should be his. The French disagreed and chose Charles' cousin Philip. A furious Edward refused to pay homage and when the Philip confiscated his lands in Aquitaine in retaliation, Edward declared war

The Edwardian era of the Hundred Years' War lasted until 1360. The English captured Philip's successor, King John II, but a compromise wasn't reached until the Treaty of Brétigny, in which Edward agreed to abandon his claim in exchange for Aquitaine and Calais. War resumed in 1369 when Charles V of France responded to Edward the Black Prince refusing his summons by declaring war. Charles successfully reclaimed many of the territories his predecessor lost, and the Black Prince's son Richard II would make peace with Charles VI in 1389. After the truce had been repeatedly extended, war resumed in 1415 when Henry V invaded, leading to decades of conflict during which the English would take Paris and claim kingship. They would not be driven out until the Battle of Castillon in 1453, the official end of the Hundred Years' War.

by Charles. She announced that her sword would be found in the church of Sainte-Catherine-de-Fierbois, hidden behind the altar. It was an old gift to the church from the crusades, and the discovery was treated as a miracle. Her pious conduct became renowned, she forced her soldiers to stop taking the Lord's name in vain and expelled prostitutes from their camps. She dictated letters to the British, instructing them to leave France or face the wrath of God. A canny propagandist, the Dauphin ensured these letters were copied and widely distributed.

However, Joan was still an untested military leader. She arrived at Orléans eager for battle but had not understood that her forces were there as support, nothing more. Although frustrated, she managed to get her men into the city past the English troops and was rewarded with the adulation of the citizens. They may have been pleased to see her but her impatience to attack was at odds with her fellow commanders' strategy. In her frustration she hurled insults at the English from the battlements.


Joan sent many letters to British and Burgundian leaders, but as she was illiterate, she would dictate them

When an attack was decided upon on 4 May 1428, Joan was not even told by the commanders and woke up as the fight was in progress. She arrived just in time to rally her troops and inspire them to capture their target; the small fortress of Saint-Loup. It was their first victory and Joan's confidence grew. She dictated a fearsome final letter to the English, ordering them to leave, and on 6 May another attack was mounted. Joan led the attack herself, routing the enemy. She advanced again the next day, claiming to be the first to storm the ramparts at Les Tourelles, where she took an arrow to the shoulder but stayed in the fight. The French commanders credited her for inspiring the troops to victory. Orléans hadn't just been relieved, the English had been routed.

With Orléans free, Joan wanted Charles to proceed immediately to Reims but the Dauphin was more cautious. He wanted to clear the Loire valley and began raising money for the campaign. It would be a month before Joan would see combat again. Technically, the young Duke of Alençon led the army but he was a firm believer in the young female warrior and frequently deferred to her. They swept quickly through the English resistance and laid siege to Beaugency. The English surrendered without realising a relief force was on its way, a force the French promptly set off after. They met at Patay on 18 June, where the ill-prepared English were decimated, with over 2,000 dead and all but one senior officer captured. Joan played little part in it but by this point that mattered not, as her legend only grew stronger.

"She dictated a fearsome final letter to the English, ordering them to leave, and on 6 May another attack was mounted. Joan led the attack herself, routing the enemy"

Defining moment

First vision 1424

At just 12 or 13 years old, she first claims to hear the voices of angels speaking to her. At first, the voices tell her to 'govern her conduct'. If she feels she had not behaved properly, the voices would admonish her. They also tell her to reject the marriage her family had arranged for her. Joan soon identifies the main voice as Michael, the archangel who led the battle against Satan in the Book of Revelation. As Joan grows older, Michael's messages continue to advise her toward piety, but gradually grow more political. Finally, Michael and the other voices, those of St Catherine and St Margaret, tell her to travel to France and begin her mission.

Timeline

1412

- **Birth of a warrior**
  Joan is born to a farming family in the town of Domrémy. She never receives formal education or how to read and write, instead learning about religion from her mother Isabelle.
  1412
- **Domrémy burns**
  The territory across the river from Domrémy is Burgundian, and a raid into French territory proves a defining moment for Joan. Her family flees to Neufchateau and returns to find the enemy having burnt their town.
  1428
- **Journey to Vaucouleurs**
  In 1428 Joan's voices tell her to travel to France and talk to the dauphin Charles. She travels to Vaucouleurs to demand an escort, beginning a series of attempts ending in success after convincing nobles that she is the fulfilment of a prophecy.
  May 1428
- **Audience with the king**
  Joan is granted a meeting with the Dauphin Charles, who sees value in her for his military campaign to free Orléans. Joan immediately identifies him in a room full of people and impresses him with her fervour.
  6 March 1429
- **The sword is found**
  After convincing the clergy and theologians of her maidenhood and her gift, Joan is allowed to lead a force to Orléans. She announces that her sword can be found in the church of Saint Catherine-de-Fierbois, which it is.
  April 1429

By now Charles was ready to head for Reims and the coronation. He led a grand procession, entered the city on 16 July and was crowned the next day as Joan looked on proudly. She was desperate for the king to attack Paris but he chose to leave Reims instead, only to be barred from crossing the Seine by English troops. Joan was ecstatic as she saw the only possible answer was an attack on Paris.

Joan dressed in men's clothes, claiming the saints told her to. She also wore her hair short, but this is often overlooked in portraits

After skirmishes throughout August and a truce with Burgundy, on 8 September Joan finally led the Paris attack she has been itching for. She stood on the moat, demanding surrender, but the only reply she received was an English arrow through her leg. After hours of constant bombardment, her men reached her under the cover of darkness, but she was determined to continue the fight the next day. However, once Charles saw the number of French casualties he ordered her to return to his side.

The attack had failed and Joan's usefulness was now suddenly cast into doubt. She needed a victory to restore her reputation but in November 1429 failed to take the castle of La Charité after a long siege. On return to court, Charles gave her hereditary nobility but made sure she stayed with him, which frustrated Joan. It was her duty to be on the battlefield, expelling the enemy from her home soil, not rotting in court.

By 1430, the English were preparing a full-scale invasion of France to reclaim their recently lost territory. When the city of Compiègne refused to surrender, Joan rode to support them without Charles' authorisation. On 23 May she led an attack from the city, but the English reinforcements cut her off at the rear and she could not retreat. She was pulled from her horse and forced to surrender to the Burgundians. She testified that constant sexual harassment was the reason she remained in men's clothing, while the voices in her head told her not to escape. Defying them, she leapt from the tower but was injured in the fall and promptly recaptured.

The English needed to make an example of Joan and the Parisian theologians wanted to try her for heresy, idolatry and witchcraft. She needed to answer for the way in which she had circumvented the church by claiming to receive her instructions from her 'voices' while her ability to inspire followers had to be stopped. If she were convicted by a foreign power the damage to Charles' reputation would be severe, so the French court paid the Duke of Burgundy £10,000 for her.

Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake in 1431

Six rounds of questioning took place between 21 February and 3 March 1431, with nine more between 10 and 17 March, conducted in her cell. Joan never changed her story. On 24 May, she was taken to the scaffold and told that if she did not abjure, she would be given to the secular authorities that would carry out her death sentence. Joan wavered as the sentence began to be read out. In front of the crowd, she recanted and was sentenced to life imprisonment and to wear women's clothes.

Two days later Joan changed her mind. Demanding she be allowed to attend mass, Joan was found in men's clothes, claiming the voices had told her that her abjuration was treason. Now the only possible outcome was her execution. On 30 May she was allowed to make her confession and take communion before she was taken to the Old Market in Rouen and tied to the stake. She was given a small crucifix and a Dominican priest held a parish cross high so she could see it even as the flames began to lick around her. The young warrior who had led her country to such great victories over the English cried out, "Jesus!" repeatedly before leaving this world. The king she had helped crown, Charles VII, not once tried to help Joan throughout her ordeal. She was merely a tool that had stopped being useful. However, the legend of Jehanne la Pucelle only grew stronger with time. In 1456, after a lengthy investigation, the sentence was annulled and in 1920, Joan of Arc was canonised by Pope Benedict XV. She is now a saint.

Defining moment

Siege of Orléans 29 April-8 May 1429

Joan arrives at Orléans amid great fanfare from the citizens of the city but is met with indifference by her fellow commanders. She is determined to mount an attack as soon as possible but is told they would wait for a relief effort. She is so poorly regarded by the other generals that when a sortie takes place, she's not told beforehand. Instead, she races out and joins the attack just in time to rally the flagging troops, ultimately claiming a fortress. This will be the first in a series of victories that would liberate Orléans and confirm her status for many as a heaven-sent hero.

1456

Charles is crowned
After swiftly clearing the Loire region of English resistance, Charles finally travels to Reims where he is crowned King Charles VII of France. The coronation fulfils another part of the prophecy of Joan's voices.
17 July 1429

A failed siege
Following Charles' coronation, Joan is convinced that Paris will fall. However, the siege fails as 1,500 men fall to the English bombardment, with Joan herself wounded, having to be pulled from the battlefield under nightfall.
8 September 1429

Capture
While leading an unsanctioned relief effort of Compiègne, Joan decides to attack the Burgundian troops surrounding the city. She is cut off by the English and pulled from her horse while trying to escape.
23 March 1430

Trial
Needing to regain superiority, the church interrogates Joan, telling her she can abjure or face a secular court that will execute her. She retracts her statement, only to change her mind days later, stating she'd rather die than deny what she knows to be true.
9 January-24 May 1431

Burned to death
Having recanted her abjuration, Joan is sentenced to be burned at the stake. A Dominican priest holds a cross up high enough for her to see from the flames. She calls out "Jesus!" several times as she burns to death.
30 May 1431

Late justice
Charles orders that Joan's trial be investigated, a proceeding taking roughly six years to complete. Finally in 1456, the original verdict is annulled, deciding the process had been unjust.
1456

© Corbis, Alamy

What if...

North Korea won the Korean War?

KOREA, 1950

Written by Andy Brown

ANDREW SALMON
Andrew Salmon is a Seoul-based reporter and author. He has written four books on Korea, including *To The Last Round: The Epic British Stand on the Imjin River, Korea, 1951*, which was named Military Book of the Year in the UK in 2009 and won a Korean Wave award in South Korea's National Assembly for its contribution to the literature of the conflict. He is currently working on *All That Matters: Modern Korea*, which will be published in summer 2014.

What if North Korea had won the Korean War?
It is impossible to answer this question, we can only speculate But if – and it is a huge if – North Korea had won the war, then the massive devastation caused by the fighting, Chinese intervention, the 'scorched earth' retreat from North Korea, and the US air campaign would have been largely obviated and this, in turn, might have led North Koreans not to harbour such bitter memories of the war. Moreover, the stability engendered by a unified country might have led to a less paranoid regime and by defeating the US, the country would not have such a massive chip on its shoulder. Kim Il-sung's war aims were the unification of the peninsula and the end of the South-Korean state. The best example of what might have been had North Korea won is probably Vietnam, which had a similar historical experience; it was a nation on the flank of China, was colonised, divided and it fought the Americans But Vietnam defeated its French colonial power in battle and drove off the Americans, reunifying the country. As such, Vietnamese have decent international relations, a liberal economy and relatively open society. Korea, on the other hand, was unable to free itself from Japanese colonial rule and North Korea was unable to defeat the US in war. North Korea has also shuttered itself off against the wider world and there are few signs of a liberalising economy or society. Would a unified Korea look more like a unified Vietnam? Maybe.

How close was North Korea to winning the war?
At the beginning, North Korea was very close to winning the war. Republic of Korea (ROK) units were smashed in the initial blitzkrieg attack that took place in the early hours of Sunday 25 June 1950, and then pushed into a headlong retreat southward. US combat units, rushing to the peninsula from Japan, had no more luck in stemming the onrush of the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) in the early July battles.

It was only when the remaining ROK units and massive US (along with British) reinforcements arrived that a 130-mile (210-kilometre) defensive front was established in the southeast: The Pusan Perimeter. If you had looked at a map during the summer of 1950, this little corner of South Korea – along with a number of offshore islands – was the only part of the peninsula painted blue; the rest was deepest red. However by late summer the NKPA had broken its teeth against the hardening ROK and UN defences. When General Douglas MacArthur, in a brilliant but risky gambit, pulled his best troops, the US Marines, out of the line, embarked them on landing craft, and landed them 200 miles (320 kilometres) in the enemy rear in his amphibious descent upon Inchon – the port serving Seoul – the NKPA's bolt was shot.

When did the United States intervene?
The US reacted very quickly and with a tremendous sense of urgency. The war broke out in the early hours of 25 June and US forces' air and naval units were committed on 27 June, soon followed by Australian and British units. In a model case of international consensus building, which would grant its intervention credibility, Washington went down the multilateral route and fought the war under the aegis of the UN. It is important to note that despite spirited and important roles of contingents from as far afield as Ethiopia and Columbia, the lion's share of the fighting was done by the ROK and US forces with the UK, the UN's third-largest contingent, also playing a critical role. Arguably, the UN has not mounted such an effective military intervention since.

If North Korea had won the war would the government and political elite of South Korea have escaped?
Perhaps, perhaps not. Syngman Rhee [South Korean president] and Kim Il-sung [leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea] never met but they were to-the-death rivals: if Rhee and his key aides and allies had not escaped, it seems likely that they would have been at best imprisoned, at worst, liquidated. They could possibly have established a government-in-exile on an offshore Korean island or in the United States. But whether he would have had the power or influence to convince the US

> “It would have been recognised internationally, in just the same way that Mao’s Communist Party was eventually recognised as government of mainland China”

North Korea was very close to winning the Korean War, which could have changed the global political landscape as we know it

to carry out a seaborne counterattack - probably from Japan - onto the Asian mainland is very questionable. First, the South Korean government of the Fifties was not the dynamic force it would become in the Sixties and Seventies, when it engineered the 'economic miracle' and while MacArthur was close to Rhee, President Harry Truman was not, and the Bay of Pigs fiasco the US later engineered in Cuba would later show how dangerous such adventures could be

If North Korea had won would there have been purges?
North Korea has a poor history of human rights and a strong record of purging undesirables. During the war, both the South and North Koreans carried out numerous atrocities, including massacres of POWs, prisoners and regime opponents. If the North Koreans had won the war, they would certainly have established Korea as a unified country- this was why Kim Il-sung, who was a nationalist as well as a communist, launched the war in the first place.

If it had been established as one unified country would it have been recognised internationally?
I suspect it would have been recognised internationally, in just the same way that Mao's Communist Party was eventually recognised as government of mainland China. It would certainly have been welcomed by its communist allies with whom it shared (and still shares) borders - China and the Soviet Union/Russia - and with the wider communist bloc. And with South Korea eliminated as a free-world nation, then the 'east' truly would have been 'red': The Northeast Asian mainland would have been communist, with just Japan and Taiwan, on their island fastnesses, holding out.

Would Kim Il-sung have been leader?
Yes, there is no doubt that Kim was the man in charge. Indeed, several of his generals and other factions were purged after the war. As it is, North Korea's personality cult paints Kim as

American M-40 gun motor carriages provide heavy-artillery support to US Army's 25th Infantry Division in Korea, November 1951

the greatest Korean and one of the greatest human beings who ever lived - even though his biggest gambit, the war to reunify Korea, failed. If he had succeeded, his standing would have been magnified, though it is difficult to imagine a personality cult stronger than the one in place today

How would the worldwide balance of power changed?
Korea has historically seen itself as a 'shrimp' between the whales' of China, Russia and Japan. In the modern era - ie the late-19th century onward - it has tried to pit one power against another, though this has not always worked. To a large extent, the first Sino-Japanese War, and the Russo-Japanese War, were both fought over which of these powers would control Korea. What is often overlooked in 21st-century South Korea is that there were strong Korean factions at that time who favoured Japan, just as there were other factions that favoured China and Russia. As for the effect of a communist victory in Korea in 1950, arguably, the United States would have become more defensive and more hard line in defending free-world interests. But compared to China and the USSR, Korea is not that significant in terms of the communist bloc's economic, political or military arms. North Korea has a formidable army for fighting on home turf, but beyond its special forces, it has no real expeditionary forces, so it doesn't affect the global balance of power. Currently, an isolated North Korea is creating

"Kim Il-sung's war aims were the unification of the peninsula and the end of the South Korean state"

How would it be different?

Invasion
North Korea invades the south, crossing the 38th Parallel, leading to a full-scale war. Two days later, their tanks reach the outskirts of Seoul.
25 June 1950

WWII ends
After World War II, Japanese occupation of Korea ends with Soviet troops occupying the north, and US troops the south part of the country.
1945

Real timeline

Real timeline

Alternate timeline

Japanese Empire
After the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), Korea became a protectorate of Japan. The Empire of Japan annexed Korea in 1910, leading to 35 years of colonial rule.
1910

KWP formed
North Korea's Communist Party Korean Workers' Party (KWP) is established. Soviet-backed leadership is installed, including Red Army-trained Kim Il-sung.
1946

Russia withdraws
Russian troops begin leaving North Korea leaving Kim Il-sung in charge. In the south the Republic of Korea is formed with Syngman Rhee as the country's first president.
1948

American withdrawal
US troops begin leaving the south of the country, giving the north encouragement that they could unify the country.
1949

No assistance
The Americans decide that Korea falls outside their strategic sphere of influence, and the South Koreans, with their poorly armed troops, are overwhelmed in battle.
26 June 1950

nuclear weapons and strategic missiles. If it had won the war, it might not have felt the need for these programmes.

How might Seoul have developed?
Well, the 'economic miracle' of the Seventies – the extraordinary process of a backward, agrarian country transforming itself into an export powerhouse and heavy industrial player – would not have happened. In turn, the political miracle of the Eighties – when the country, through people-power protests, forced the military junta to accept democratic elections – would not have transpired either. And with the above developments absent, the ongoing social and cultural changes, under which Koreans have become high-tech, global citizens, overturning many of the autocratic, old-fashioned aspects of their society and developing internationally-admired entertainment products, would not have taken place. That having been said, Seoul, as the capital or sub-capital of a Korea unified by Kim, would probably not be as insular, isolated and paranoid as Pyongyang is today. Again, we can look to the example of Hanoi's status as the capital of a unified Vietnam. Both Hanoi and Saigon today are far more open than Pyongyang in political, economic and social terms. Perhaps a Kim-ruled Seoul would look like a cross between today's Pyongyang and today's Saigon.

How long would the new regime have lasted?
As it is, the Kim regime has survived a devastating war, the collapse of European communism, famine, poverty and the death of both its founding father and his son, yet has still managed to pass power on to the third generation. In gentler and kinder circumstances, it seems unlikely that the regime would have given up its grip on power. Then again, perhaps a more open, less isolated and less totalitarian communist Korea would have been more vulnerable to (or open to) change and so would have collapsed. We saw this with the regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Militating against that speculation is the fact that in Asia – in Beijing and Hanoi – communist parties have actually survived in political power even while they have opened their economies and societies. So my guess is that the Kims would have survived as leaders of a unified Korea. I also suspect that the government of a Kim-unified Korea would have been harder-line that the current governments in power in Hanoi and Beijing but not as hard line as the current regime reigning in Pyongyang today.

US Marines taking North Korean soldiers prisoner, Korea, 1951

How might the world be different today?
Not radically. Sure, there would be no Samsung smartphones or Psy but none of these things can be said to have made a significant difference to humanity. However, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. If South Korea had ceased to exist in 1950, we would not have witnessed the greatest national success story of the 20th century: the rise of South Korea from the ashes of war to become one of the most admired national benchmarks on Earth – an economic force, democratic polity and an increasingly liberal society. More broadly, if there were not two opposed Koreas, a major casus belli would not exist in Northeast Asia. Absent this perhaps the region – China, Korea, Japan and the Russian Far East – would have achieved greater economic unity, like the European Union and the North American Free Trade Area.

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Do you agree with our expert's view?

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American assistance
After the invasion of the south and full-scale war, the US military intervenes extremely quickly with air and naval units engaged only a few days after the conflict breaks out.
27 June 1950

Stalemate
An armistice is called. The war has cost over 2 million lives and the country is split into two. The Demilitarized Zone is reset as boundary between communist North and anti-communist South.
July 27 1953

Economic miracle
The country continues to experience economic and industrial growth but its government is still a long way removed from democracy and would be until the sixth republic.
1979

Two very different countries
Relations between the two countries are still strained and the demilitarized zone that separates the two countries stretches the width of the peninsula and into the Yellow Sea.
Present day

Engage the enemy
US ground units meet the enemy in battle. Although they are unsuccessful it highlights how quickly American troops engage North Korea. USA gets international cooperation and legitimacy for the conflict through the UN.
5 July 1950

North Korean purge
Relations with Russia and China and North Korea deteriorate but Kim remains in power and strengthens his grip by purging his enemies.
1958

Cult of the leader
The country is united under Kim Il-Sung with his face appearing all over the united country. Korea is recognized as one country with Kim as its leader.
1974

North Korea crumbles
North Korea's economy begins to deteriorate rapidly, propelled by the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of their favoured trade and aid. In the mid-Nineties famine ravages the country and possibly a million people die.
1990s

Marching on Seoul
North Korean troops enter Seoul just a few days after the conflict has begun. Members of the South Korean government flee the country for the United States.
29 June 1950

Purges
The North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung orders a purge of those he sees a threat to his government. Tens of thousands of people are killed. **1951**

Communist borders
China and the Soviet Union welcome the new united country. Northeast Asia is now 'red' with just Japan and Taiwan not communist.
1952

Bay of Pigs
After the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba ends in fiasco, the South Korean exiled government's hopes for a US-backed counter invasion of Korea are dashed. **1961**

Open economy
Korea is still ruled by Kim's grandson in an authoritarian manner but China-style economic reforms are implemented. As market capitalism takes effect, hopes arise for a more democratic polity.
Present day

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Bluffer's Guide
Italian unification

ITALY, 1848-1870

What was it?

The years between 1848 and 1870 saw kings, revolutionaries and religious leaders fight, debate and negotiate the transformation of Italy from a patchwork of small kingdoms into one unified nation. This was the Risorgimento: the resurgence of Italy.

A land divided

Described by Austrian chancellor Metternich as a "mere geographical expression" rather than a country, Italy in 1848 was made up of eight different states, one of which was ruled by the Catholic Church. The most powerful were the 'Two Sicilies' (Sicily and Naples), ruled by the French-Spanish Bourbon dynasty, Lombardy-Venetia, ruled by Austria, and Sardinia (Sardinia and Piedmont), which was independent.

The other Italy

Tiny San Marino, a mere 98 kilometres (61 miles) from Florence is modern Europe's third-smallest nation. It was allowed to retain its independence from Italy because it had sheltered participants of the failed 1848 revolution, including Garibaldi. San Marino, one of Europe's only two constitutional republics in the mid-19th century, also proposed an alliance with US President Abraham Lincoln.

The Battle of Solferino in 1859, part of the Second Italian War of Independence

Capital punishment

As territories were liberated, the Italian capital moved from Turin to Florence in 1865 and finally to Rome in 1871. Florence underwent a period of modernisation with new palaces, piazzas and wide boulevards – only the protestations of the British and American expat community living in the city prevented the destruction of all the medieval buildings

A statue to the king was unveiled in one of Florence's new piazzas

Sardinian Prime Minister Camillo di Cavour in 1864

Home-made revolution

The independent Kingdom of Sardinia realised that it had to compete with quality of life, not just force of arms, so prime minister Camillo di Cavour began a period of modernisation in 1852, even building railways with British loans. Italy's industrial revolution followed the front line from north to south.

Sardinians were active participants in the Crimean War

Fighting imperialism with imperialism

The Kingdom of Sardinia became an unlikely participant in the Crimean War (1853-1856) against Russia and the Turkish Ottoman Empire, alongside Great Britain and France. Italian soldiers fought on the Black Sea coast of Ukraine in order to secure French support for a war with Austria.

A depiction of Garibaldi's popular takeover of Naples in 1860

Lambs to the slaughter

Inspired by his guerrilla wars in Uruguay where the fighters wore the red shirts of slaughterhouse workers, Garibaldi's Italian volunteer army, the 'Thousands' (or Redshirts) wore similar uniforms with a Latin-American flavour. The shirts were believed to have been taken from a factory where they were waiting to be shipped to Argentinian butchers.

The politician Machiavelli wrote in Tuscan, which would become Italy's official language

Language barriers

Prior to unification, Italian kingdoms spoke myriad dialects. Tuscan, which was later chosen to be standard Italian, was only spoken by 2.5 per cent of the population, although that 2.5 per cent included the writing of 13th-century writer Dante Alighieri and 16th-century satirist Niccolo Machiavelli, and was the written language of choice for Italian poets and thinkers.

Key figures

Giuseppe Mazzini
1805-1872
Writer, poet and mentor of Garibaldi, Mazzini advocated for an independent, democratic Italy.

Giuseppe Garibaldi
1807-1882
'Hero of Two Worlds' for revolutionary wars in Latin America and Italy, Garibaldi led a volunteer army into Sicily and Naples.

Camillo di Cavour
1810-1861
Political pragmatist and Sardinian Prime Minister Cavour struck secret deals and turned on his allies to unite Italy.

Victor Emanuel II
1820-1878
Sardinian King Victor Emmanuel II, was more progressive than most European monarchs and served as a symbol of Risorgimento.

Pope Pius IX
1792-1878
Pius IX refused to surrender the Church's territory to Italy and condemn Austrian rule, but remained dangerously popular

Key events

Young Italy is formed
14 January 1831
Journalist and politician Giuseppe Mazzini founds Young Italy, a revolutionary movement dedicated to unification.

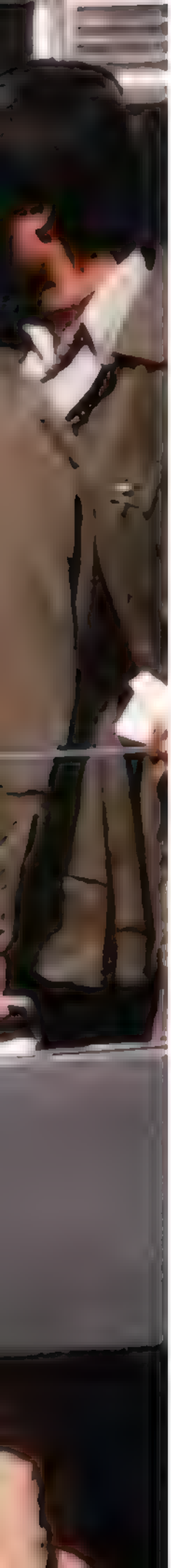
The failed uprisings
12 January 1848
Revolts start in Sicily and spread across Italy. Order is restored and the ringleaders, including Garibaldi and Mazzini, flee.

A quiet revolutionary
4 November 1852
Cavour, who has a reputation as a non-revolutionary progressive, is elected prime minister in the Kingdom of Sardinia.

The Austro-Sardinian War
29 April 1859
Sardinia and France push Austrians out of Italy. France later withdraws after making separate peace.

Garibaldi takes Sicily
11 May 1860
Following revolts, Garibaldi's Thousand army land on the island and begin a campaign against the unpopular monarch.

© Mary Evans



Eye Witness

THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS, TEHRAN, 4 NOVEMBER 1979

Written by Jonathan O'Callaghan

MARK LIJEK
In 1979, Mark Lijek was working at the US Embassy in Tehran as a consular officer along with his wife, a consular assistant. On 4 November 1979, the embassy was stormed by Iranian protestors, forcing Lijek, his wife and four others to seek refuge across the city as they awaited a daring rescue by Canada and the CIA

> "He pushed the ladder away and tossed a tear gas canister into the ground below"

At 9am on Sunday 4 November 1979, Mark Lijek and his colleagues sat in shocked horror as hundreds of Iranian protestors climbed the gate of the US Embassy in Tehran. The attack was the embodiment of months of increased tension between Iran and the US, culminating in what would be one of the modern era's highest-profile hostage crises. As the embassy fell into Iranian hands, however, Lijek and five others, including his wife, would become part of a remarkable escape plan to get out of the country. Their incredible story was retold in the Oscar-winning 2012 film *Argo*, but here Lijek tells us what really happened.

Lijek served as a consular officer for the US Embassy in Tehran, while his wife Cora was a consular assistant working in the visa tourist office. "Most of the Americans worked in two buildings; the vast majority were in the Chancellery, which was in the south centre of the compound, and the rest of us worked in the consular annex, which was about a five-minute walk to the northwest," explains Lijek. "Our compound was very large, 26 acres [10 hectares] and about a mile [1.6 kilometres] of wall, and we had 13 marines with orders not to shoot to defend the thing, so any kind of perimeter defence was out of the question. The plan was to try to hold onto our two buildings long enough to destroy sensitive information and equipment and wait for the hopeful rescue."

It quickly became apparent, though, that rescue was out of the question. "We had one marine in our building and he pushed all the buttons, locked everything down, and we basically just sat there," continues Lijek. "We didn't see any of the demonstrators for about half an hour. Finally they worked their way up to our area and broke into this little courtyard that was immediately south of our building.

"Eventually, somebody noticed our building was not fully protected. It was brand new, we had all these latest security upgrades, but some genius had overlooked the upstairs bathroom windows. They were just normal glass, no bars, no nothing. So somebody tossed a brick through one of the windows and the marine ran in, and he saw a guy climbing up the ladder. He pushed the ladder away and tossed a tear gas canister into the ground below. A friend and I grabbed some of the metal coat hangers and we wired the doors together, but if they really wanted to break through they could have, and I'm not sure why we were left alone from that point on, but we sort of were."

It became a very nervous wait for Lijek and his colleagues. The electricity went off and they could hear footsteps on the roof but there was seemingly nothing they could do except sit in the dark and wait, which they did for two hours. "Finally we were told that we should try to get to the British compound," says Lijek. "There was no way for us to know whether we would be allowed to go, but given the circumstances we didn't have much choice."

The marine opened the door and one of Lijek's friends crept out, finding three policemen who didn't have any objections to them leaving. The Iranian customers and

Embassy attacked

LOCAL TIME

09-00am **Storming the walls**
Iranian protestors climb the walls of the US Embassy in Tehran

09-15am **The protestors storm and take the chancellery at the US Embassy.**

09-30am **Lijek and his colleagues get their first glimpse of the protestors in the compound.**

09-45am **Doors smashed in**
The protestors bash down the doors of the commissary.

10-00am **The protestors turn their attention to the building Lijek and his colleagues are holed up in.**

10-05am **The protestors throw bricks through the windows, climb onto the roof and cut the power to the building.**

10-10am **Trapped in the building, Lijek and his group have nothing to do but sit and wait, after they destroy sensitive equipment.**

12-00pm **Escape from compound**
Lijek and his group make a break for it, and escape onto the streets of Tehran.

01-00pm **Although Lijek's group makes it to relative safety, a second group is captured and taken back to the embassy.**

"Who else is going to show up in a country in the middle of a revolution and realistically expect they can get their work done?"

employees in the building had already made a break to get home, leaving just 13 Americans behind. It was decided to split into two groups to increase their chances of success, the two married couples, Lijek and his wife being one, left in the first group of six with two civilian Americans who were there on business. "I assume they figured that we would have a slightly better chance of getting away if we went first, and in fact that's how it turned out," explains Lijek. "We made it. That second group that left a few minutes after us did not, with the exception of one guy who actually caught up to me, this fella Bob Anders, our immigration chief."

In addition to the embassy swarming with protestors, the streets were alive with revolutionaries. "I was holding my breath because we knew at any time somebody could come up and stop us," says Lijek, "and in fact that's exactly what happened to that second group of Americans. They followed us but we came to the first major north-south street, and we turned south, which was the proper direction to go to the British compound. The second group, which included our boss, the consular general, decided to go to his house and play bridge instead, so they turned north. And apparently that little change in plan got them caught, because they got about 150 yards [135 metres] north and some guy with a G3 [rifle] came running after them, rounded them up and made them march back to the embassy."

Lijek and his group made their way to the British compound through the narrow city streets, but when they got to Ferdowsi Square, which was right in front of the compound, they came across a big demonstration that was blocking their path. Ducking into an alley they held a quick meeting and decided the best course of action would be to go to Anders' apartment and wait out the trouble. "You have to remember, we're still thinking all we've got to do is hide out for a few hours, we did not know that there would be no rescue," says Lijek. "So once we got to Bob's place we were feeling pretty good. We sat around, had a nice lunch, had a few drinks, listened to the *BBC* describing the attack on the radio and we just thought by the end of the day it would probably be over and we'd be back at work tomorrow."

By 11pm, four of them, Lijek and his wife and the other couple, Joe and Kathy Stafford, made their way to the Iran-America Society to spend the night. The following day they were on the move again, this time finally to the British compound after a brief stop at the Staffords' apartment, but all the while an uncooperative Washington was failing to give them details of exactly how bad things were.

That Monday, 5 November, the British Embassy (separate from the British compound they were in) was attacked. "The compound we were hiding in was visited by a mob that wanted to break in," says Lijek. "Frankly it was just a clever guard who talked them out of it. So London and Washington conferred and decided it was too risky for us to be with you." Lijek had hoped they would be allowed to stay in the compound but instead they were told to move again. "As it was, we did feel like we'd been abandoned," he reveals. Virtually every neighbourhood had a revolutionary committee, known as a komiteh, and Lijek was fearful that it was only a matter of time before they were caught.

The group were moved to a US Embassy house under the care of a Thai cook called Sam, but after a few days it became apparent that the housekeeper, an elderly Thai lady, was not comfortable with them being there. After a row between Sam and her on 10 November she left the house in a foul mood, and the Americans were worried she would alert the local komiteh to their presence. Fortunately, Anders had been in contact with his Canadian counterpart, John Sheardown, who insisted they join him at his residence at the Canadian Embassy which hadn't been touched by the Iranians.

At the Sheardown residence they were able to relax, to an extent. As Americans who had been in the US Embassy they were still unable to leave the country knowing that the Iranians would almost certainly hold them captive, along with the 52 other American hostages. The Canadians were extremely welcoming, however, and Prime Minister Joe Clark sanctioned their stay, unbeknown to the Iranians, of course. They would end up remaining there for two months and, while not uncomfortable, it was not without peril.

"In terms of specific threats, one really was John's gardener," explains Lijek. "He was a member of the local komiteh and we needed to be sure he did not see us, and that was kind of a problem because John's house had a lot of glass walls, and the gardener had a key and could show up whenever he wanted. There were other little things, like the garbage; John had to start getting rid of the excess garbage because all of a sudden instead of three people in the house you've got seven [an additional member of the group was added, who had been hiding with the Swedes, while the Staffords were in a residence

The aftermath of the uprising on the streets of Tehran

nearby]. The garbage man was also a member of the komiteh, so John had to start carrying the garbage to work. The other thing that happened was that the house was put up for sale by the landlord, so from time to time people would come to look and we would have to evacuate on those days. But we didn't like going outside, we were kind of paranoid for a range of reasons. On one of those trips the car skidded off the road in the snow and a bunch of Iranians came and helped us pick it up and put it back on the road. That was really nice of them but, I mean, it was outside of my comfort zone! It's not that I expected everybody to know my face or whatever, it's not like they were putting up wanted posters, but we were paranoid and these things were not helpful."

By January, Lijek's group was getting restless, so they asked the Canadian ambassador Ken Taylor to relay a message to Washington asking for help to leave Iran. But it would not be until late January that it became apparent that a plan was afoot to get them out. The CIA had put together a fake science-fiction movie called *Argo*, complete with posters, a script and press releases, and the plan was to pretend the group were Hollywood employees out in Tehran shooting a movie.

"We didn't really know anything about the CIA or the specifics of the plan until 26 January when [CIA agent] Tony Mendez and his partner, Julio, came to the house in the evening," explains Lijek. "We were briefed on three possible options [for escape], one of course was the Hollywood scenario, but it was pretty obvious from the way Tony presented them that the other two were throwaways. One, I think, had us as agronomists or something like that, and the other I think we were people involved in a petroleum venture.

The Hollywood thing was definitely audacious but it had a certain credibility, frankly, because who else is going to show up in a country in the middle of a revolution and realistically expect that they can get their work done? Hollywood people have a bit of a detachment from reality it seems, and frankly they also have a certain carte blanche that maybe they can actually get cooperation from this revolutionary regime."

Lijek and his group were mostly behind the plan. They were each given roles to play; Lijek was the transportation coordinator for the 'movie', his wife the scriptwriter, and so on. They were given new identities, new passports and told to alter their appearance. However, one member of their group, Joe Stafford, did not like the plan at all. "He thought we had a moral obligation to stay until the hostages were released, which to me made no sense," says Lijek. Stafford's refusal to cooperate threatened to derail the entire mission.

Iranian troops take aim at a mob of protestors

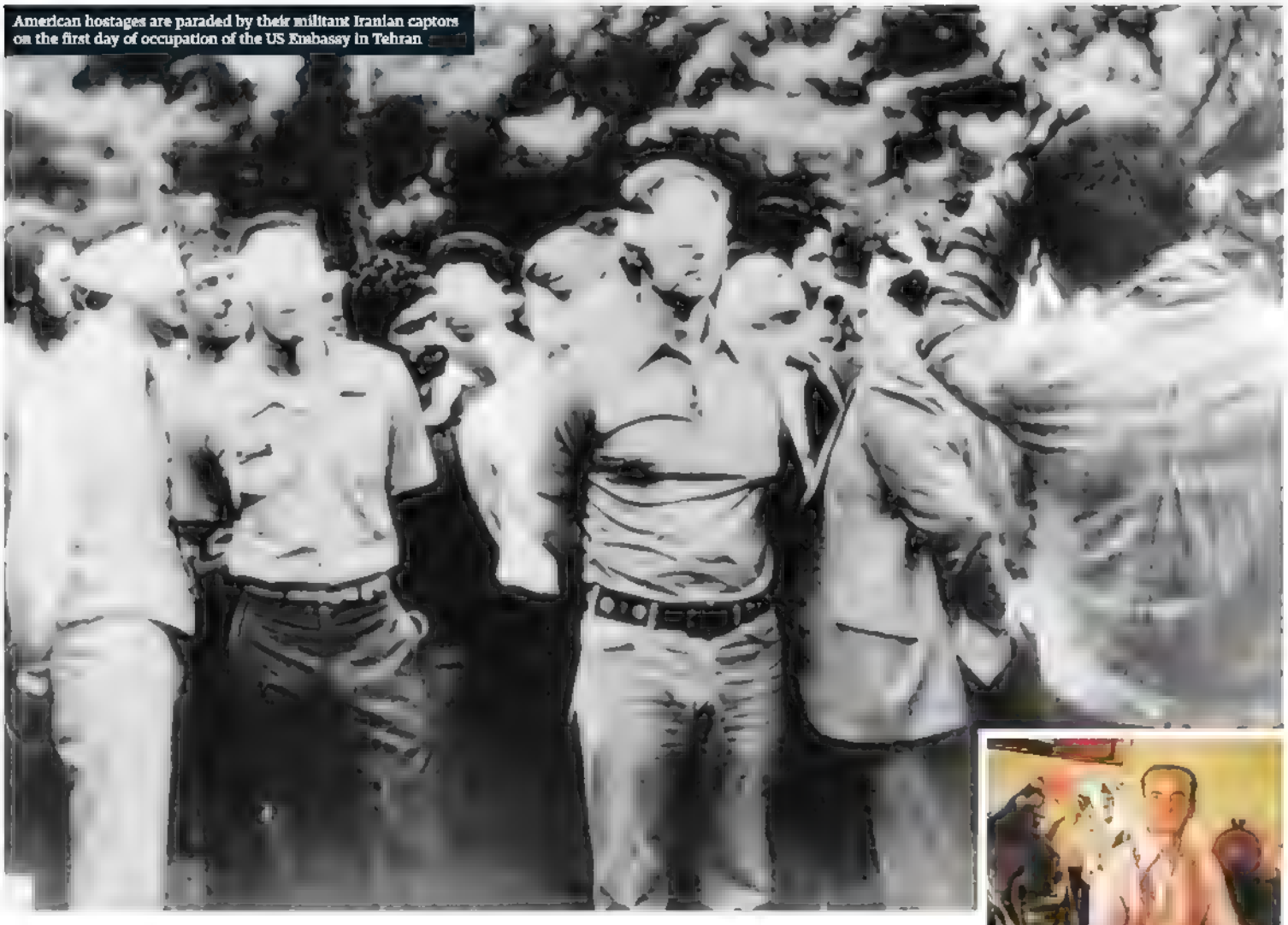
CIA agent Tony Mendez (left) being congratulated by US President Jimmy Carter for getting the *'Argo* six' out of Iran

A man burns an American flag at a rally in support of Iranian students in Tehran

Thankfully, in the morning of 27 January, the plan was put into motion and it worked perfectly. Unlike the 2012 movie, their journey to and through the Mehrabad Airport in Tehran was largely uneventful, apart from a brief delay for their plane. There was no final chase down the runway like the film portrayed. Indeed, the plan went so well that Lijek admits it was probably more for their own benefit than the Iranians: "What Tony told me later was that the cover story was created basically for us," explains Lijek. "A professional immigrations customers officer is trained to detect nervous behaviour, so the thing Tony didn't want was for us to be nervous, so he needed us to believe in the scenario. We made a game of it, and with the exception of Joe we were having fun." Aside from the inconvenience with their plane being delayed for half an hour, the group ultimately boarded a Swissair flight to Zurich on the morning of Sunday 27 January 1980, finally bringing the ordeal they had endured for nearly three months to a close.

"Once we got out of Iranian airspace it was a tremendous relief," says Lijek. "We toasted each other and it was an amazing moment. It's kind of hard to describe, there were just so many different emotions, including concern about the hostages we were leaving behind, but for ourselves it was like magic. I don't think I've ever had any emotions to really compare to the freedom of getting out after three months of living with daily stress, finally it just all of a sudden goes away. It was incredible."

Although they managed to escape relatively trouble free, not everyone was sure they would make it out of the country so easily, and one man who remained uncertain was President Carter who later said the *'Argo* six' had just a fifty-fifty chance of successfully leaving Iran. "I'm surprised


American hostages are paraded by their militant Iranian captors on the first day of occupation of the US Embassy in Tehran

"The second group [...] decided to go to his house and play bridge instead. And apparently that little change in plan got them caught"

he would have launched the operation with only a 50 per cent chance of success," admits Lijek. "I did ask Tony about that and he denied it, he said he figured we were at least 75-25 in favour, and that's kind of what I would have thought at the point when the proposal was put to us in Tehran.

"If Tony had told us we had a fifty-fifty chance, I don't think we would have voted [to go]. One thing I did learn from the [2012 film *Argo*] was the risk we were running. It didn't occur to me at the time that if they caught us at the airport with false documents and a CIA escort, you know we are spies at that point, and so who knows what they would do. That never really occurred to me until the movie came out."

Thankfully, the escape went according to plan, but while Lijek and his group were free in the USA by early 1980, the ordeal was far from over for the 52 other Americans who were still being held hostage in Iran. They would not be freed until a year later, on 20 January 1981, after Iraq invaded and forced Iran to enter negotiations with the US. Had the '*Argo* six' left the embassy just a few minutes later on the day it was stormed, on 4 November 1979, it's almost certain they would have joined this group of hostages in captivity.

However, they were able to evade capture and make it out of the country, thanks in no small part to the help from Canada, a gesture widely heralded across the United States. Such was Canada's role alongside the CIA that the rescue of the *Argo* six' is now known as the Canadian Caper, and this daring and bizarre rescue mission will not soon be forgotten.

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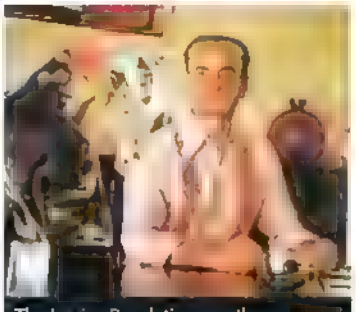
The Iranian Revolution overthrew Mohammad Reza Shāh Pahlavi

Origins and aftermath

In the year leading up to the uprising, tensions between Iran and the United States had escalated when Mohammad Rezā Shāh Pahlavi, the Shah (or ruler) of Iran, was admitted to the US for cancer treatment. In February 1979, he was overthrown in the Iranian Revolution, leaving a provisional government in place. This government failed to quell the revolution and ultimately, on 4 November 1979, another uprising saw a group of Iranian students take over the US Embassy in Tehran. Although Lijek's group escaped within a few months, 52 other Americans were held hostage until 20 January 1981, when they were released as a result of Iraq invading Iran in September 1980. The revolution brought to a head tensions between Iran and the US that still continue.

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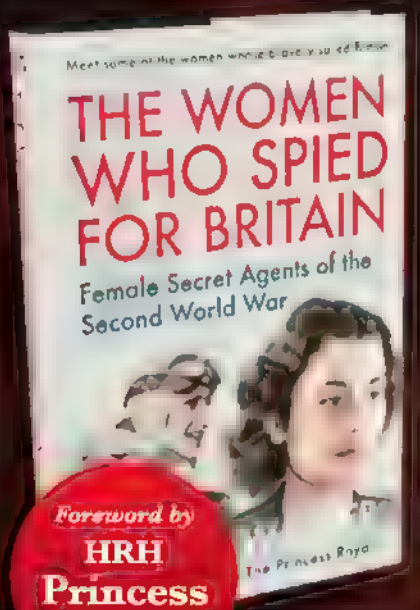

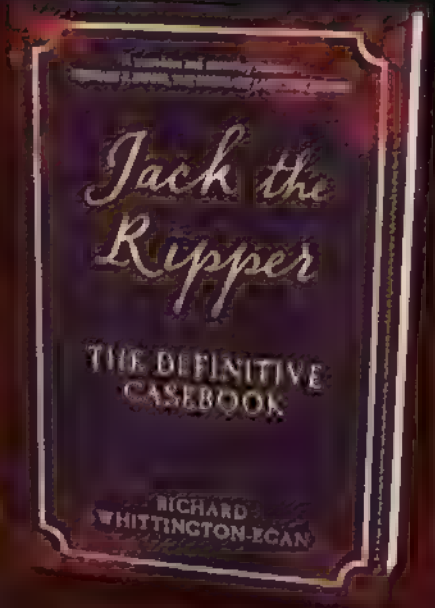

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What was it like?

MADRID 1935

A bustling metropolis and the centre of a once-proud empire, Madrid was a city torn apart by political factions, teetering on the brink of civil war in 1935

In 1935, Madrid combined the eloquence and style of a metropolis at the heart of an old empire with the restless and dangerous energy of a city on the verge of revolution. It was a city at the dawn of a new and dangerous age; the glorious days of Carlos I and Hernán Cortés had gone, the great Spanish empire which once stood proud in every corner of the globe had all but disappeared.

The economy had flatlined and the Spanish mainland was tearing itself apart through political instability. It seemed like there would be no more great conquests, no more 'más allá', or 'further beyond', in this new chapter of Spanish history.

Madrid's population stood uneasy and divided over these changes. The city now contained different factions, political affiliations and contrasting ideologies, reverberating throughout Spain. In 1931, the military dictator General Miguel Primo de Rivera had been overthrown in a violent revolt and the Second Spanish Republic had come to power. A new constitution changed the country into a republic and king Alfonso XIII was forced into exile.

Communists, fascists, Republicans and Democrats all clashed and the military, which had propped up Primo de Rivera for so long, was also divided in its support for the fledgling government. This period brought together the key players of the Spanish Civil War, which would kill thousands and see the rise of the dictator Francisco Franco.

Government

Many of the problems in Madrid stemmed from the fractious government that sat in the Palace of Villamejor at the heart of the city. A coalition of right-leaning politicians under Alejandro Lerroux could not reconcile the contrasting elements of Spanish society.

A soldier from the Republican army lifts the Spanish Republican flag in the centre of Madrid

Technology

Madrid was a modern city during the Thirties. However, it was deeply divided by economic factors. While the richer areas enjoyed all the new technology of the age, poorer districts were still living in the previous century in terms of available amenities.

One of the main thoroughfares of the city with cars and tramlines

Education

Education was traditionally the domain of private social groups overseen by the Catholic Church. This had changed by 1935, when the government declared it the state's responsibility to deliver education to the young on a secular basis. Deep resentment among the bishops and cardinals created further divisions.

Railway workers in Madrid celebrating the birth of the Spanish Republic

Industry

Like much of Spain, Madrid's industry was flatlining in the Thirties because of the Great Depression. Factories and industrial complexes struggled to stay afloat and the communist-leaning worker unions, which had aspirations to overthrow the government, were a destabilising influence.

Pablo Picasso studied and worked in Madrid

Art

Despite enormous instability sweeping through Spain, Madrid and its Museo del Prado was one of the centres of the surrealist art movement. The famous Pablo Picasso studied and worked in Madrid at the time. His influence is still found throughout the city.

Finance

'Madrid' means 'abundant rich in waters', but the reality couldn't have been further from the truth, as Spain toiled through a deep depression caused by 1929's Wall Street crash. While the rich remained affluent, the majority of people lived in dilapidated tenement houses on the outskirts of town.

Republican troops guarding a bank against communists in Madrid

Military

The coalition Republican government nominally controlled the military, but their authority was tenuous. Many elements within the military were suspicious of the Republican government, including an increasingly dangerous faction under General Francisco Franco, who held control of the army around Madrid.

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Power of the pharaoh

RAMESSES II
Egypt, 1303-1213 BCE

Brief Bio

Ramesses II, known as Ramesses the Great, was one of the longest-reigning pharaohs in Egyptian history. Like other 'greats' of antiquity, he was worshipped by his people, feared by his enemies, and adored by himself. This master of bronze-age propaganda erected countless stone memorials to cement his legendary status for the ages.

POWER OF THE PHARAOH
RAMESSES II

Ramesses the Great earned his fame as a war hero, proud father of 140 children and a shameless self-promoter

Written by Dave Roos

The year was 1274 BCE and a god was on the march. Standing six-feet tall with a square jutting jaw, thick lips and a long sharp nose, Ramesses II rode his golden chariot ahead of an army of 20,000 archers, charioteers and sandalled infantrymen. Only five years into his reign as pharaoh, he had already established himself as a fierce warrior and strategic military commander, the rightful blood heir to the newly established 19th Dynasty and a true spiritual son of the goddess Isis herself. Ramesses' soldiers would have seen their commander-in-chief as the rest of Egypt did: as a god in the flesh, possessed of legendary strength and bravery, incapable of error and on a divine mission to re-establish Egypt as the dominant superpower of the Middle East.

Ramesses' destination was Kadesh, a heavily fortified Syrian city in the Orontes River valley. Kadesh was an important centre of trade and commerce and the de facto capital of the Amurru kingdom, a highly coveted piece of land sandwiched on the border between the Egyptian and Hittite empires. As a boy, Ramesses had ridden alongside his father Seti I when the elder Egyptian king finally wrested Kadesh from the Hittites after more than half a century of abortive attempts. But as soon as Seti returned victorious to Egypt the scheming rulers of Kadesh re-pledged their allegiance to the Hittites. Ramesses had returned to Syria to salvage two tarnished reputations: his father's and that of his empire.

Ramesses and his army had been marching for a month. They departed from the pharaoh's royal residence along the eastern edge of the lush Nile Delta in April, cutting across the Sinai peninsula, following the curve of the Mediterranean coastline up through Canaan, past the strategic highland outpost of Megiddo, into the fertile valleys of Lebanon and finally arriving in the forests outside Kadesh. The pharaoh's scouts fanned out to assess the enemy's preparations for battle. The locals painted a deceptively favourable picture. The Hittite king Muwatalli was so afraid of the great Ramesses and his legendary charioteers that the Hittite army was biding its time a hundred miles away.

Ramesses had been living the life of a god for so long that perhaps he believed a little too much in his own divine intimidation. While still an infant, his grandfather helped forge a revolutionary new dynasty in Egypt, one based on military might and absolute royal authority. Ramesses' grandfather was born Paramessu, a foot soldier who had worked his way up to general in the Egyptian army. He found favour with Horemheb, another lifelong military man who had become pharaoh after the untimely death of the teenage king we know

Nemes
The headdress was a mainstay throughout most of ancient Egypt's dynasties

Godlike image
The various details in and on the pharaoh's royal appearance were specifically designed to elevate his status to a god among men.

Sceptre
In Egyptian society the sceptre was a sign of leadership.

More construction was completed in Ramesses' reign than any other pharaoh

Anatomy of the Great Pharaoh

The many stone depictions of Ramesses display the pharaoh's divine power through the use of symbols. The striped *nemes* crown is an ancient symbol of Egyptian royalty. The coiled cobra on the headdress, known as an *uraeus*, symbolises a warrior ready to strike at his enemies. Pharaohs didn't grow beards, but the false beard – also found on women – is a sign of divinity. Some depictions of Ramesses show him carrying a flail and a sceptre. The flail symbolises grain, glorifying the pharaoh as provider. The sceptre, also carried by shepherds, is a sign of leadership.

about today thanks to the discovery of his tomb, Tutankhamun. Horemheb, who had no sons of his own, saw a disciple in Paramessu, someone who would carry on his aggressive campaign of brutal subjugation of rebellious tribes in Nubia, Libya and distant Syria in the name of strengthening the kingdom. When Horemheb died, Paramessu ascended the throne and changed his name to 'Ramessu beloved of Amun,' the man history knows as Ramesses I.

From birth, Ramesses II was groomed to be pharaoh. His father Seti I actually inherited the throne 18 months after Ramesses I became king and his son was raised in the lavish royal palaces of the pharaohs, waited upon by nurses and handmaids and trained by tutors in writing, poetry, art and, most importantly combat. Seti named Ramesses the commander-in-chief of the army when the boy prince was only ten years old. Aged 14 Ramesses began to accompany his father on military campaigns and witnessed the overwhelming power and might of the Egyptian charioteers in combat on more than one occasion.

Now he was no longer a boy watching such campaigns but a man – a god – leading them. He was an hour's march from Kadesh and heartened to hear his enemies were rightfully trembling before his godly might. Ramesses ordered his troops to make camp. The royal tents were raised, the horses watered at a gentle tributary of the Orontes, and the soldiers circled the chariots as a half-hearted barricade against the unlikely possibility of attack. In reality, an attack was not only likely, it was imminent. It turned out the locals rounded up by the Egyptian scouts were planted by the Hittites. King Muwatalli and his large force of Hittite charioteers, archers and infantrymen were camped on the far side of Kadesh, hidden from view in the river valley. Luckily for Ramesses, a second wave of Egyptian scouts captured a pair of Hittite spies and beat the truth out of them. Muwatalli was planning an ambush. The target wasn't Ramesses' camp, but the legions of unsuspecting Egyptian infantrymen still marching.

Ramesses dispatched his speediest messengers to warn the approaching troops, but it was too late. Thousands of Hittite charioteers descended in a

dust cloud of chaos upon the unprotected infantry. The Hittites rode three to a chariot: one driver, one archer, and one spear-wielding warrior to cut down foot soldiers at close range. They wore ankle-length chain-mail armour while the Egyptians infantry were naked to the curved blades of the Hittite scimitars. The heavy chariots ploughed through the Egyptian ranks, littering the hillside with corpses and sending the survivors fleeing for Ramesses makeshift camp.

What happened next says more about Ramesses II than perhaps any other event in his remarkably long reign as pharaoh. The Hittite forces pursued the decimated Egyptian army all the way to Ramesses' camp, crashing easily through the porous Egyptian defences and battling their way toward the royal tents themselves. Then, according to a first-hand account known as the *Poem of Pentaur*, Ramesses emerged from his tent and single-handedly faced down the enemy hordes: "Then His Majesty appeared in glory like his father Mont, he assumed the accoutrements of battle, and girded himself with his corslet, he was like Ba'al in his hour."

This was the moment, with the Hittite hordes descending upon him, that history witnessed the birth of Ramesses the Great. The pharaoh took to his chariot and sliced through the Hittite ranks, cutting down the foe with his bow while rallying his troops to battle. The image of Ramesses on his golden chariot – his bow drawn back in deadly fury, his wheels rolling over the crushed bodies of his enemies – is carved into the walls of more Egyptian temples than any story in the empire's 3,000-year history. If you believe the *Poem of Pentaur*, which adorns the walls of temples at Luxor, Karnak, Abu Simbel and more, then King Muwatalli was so cowered by Ramesses' superhuman strength that he immediately petitioned for surrender.

But is that really how the Battle of Kadesh went down? Do historians believe the account of the *Poem of Pentaur*, that a single man defeated an entire Hittite army? Hardly. Ramesses the Great, most Egyptologists now believe, deserves his title not for his heroics on the battlefield or his potency as a patriarch – he allegedly fathered well over 100 children – but for his flair for propaganda. Ramesses was, quite literally, the greatest image-maker of antiquity. Those visiting the ruins of the great Egyptian temples today are sure to find a seated stone statue of Ramesses II guarding the gate, or a series of identical Ramesses sculptures supporting interior pillars.

His colossal and unblemished image stood tall and would remain so for centuries. To everyday Egyptians staring up at that massive crowned head, they would have no choice but to believe the statue's unspoken message: here stands your king, your ruler, your god. Their ruler was pharaoh of Egypt for a staggering 66 years. Only one other pharaoh in the 3,000-year history of ancient Egypt sat longer as king than Ramesses the Great. His reign spanned several lifetimes for the average Egyptian, reinforcing his idea that his rule really was eternal. The sheer length of his reign largely accounts for the grand scale of his construction projects and the ubiquity of his image. The ancient pharaoh Khufu was only king for 23 years (2551-2528 BCE) and he built the Great Pyramid at Giza. Imagine what Ramesses accomplished in 66.

"The heavy chariots ploughed through the Egyptian ranks, littering the hillside with corpses"

Wives and offspring

A pharaoh is expected to provide suitable heirs to the throne, and Ramesses the Great approached this royal task with particular gusto. During the first ten years of his father Seti I's reign as pharaoh, a teenage Ramesses sired ten sons and at least as many daughters. Over the course of his long lifetime, Ramesses had six to eight principal wives, dozens of lesser wives and untold numbers of concubines. He is believed to have fathered an estimated 80 sons and 60 daughters, an impressive and somewhat excessive number, even by pharaoh standards. Ramesses had good reason for spreading his seed. Although he was born into a common family, Ramesses was intent on reinstating a pure dynastic bloodline. He gave his male heirs high-ranking administrative posts and trained each of his first 12 sons as possible successors, but none of them managed to outlive Ramesses. The thirteenth son, Merenptah, assumed the throne around 1214 BCE, but despite Ramesses' best efforts, the Ramessid Dynasty withered away in only 150 years.

Ramesses' favourite wife Nefertiti depicted in her royal chariot

Great constructions

Abu Simbel

1264 or 1244 BCE

These two temples along the banks of the Nile are outsized paeans to Ramesses and Nefertari. Both temples are carved into a sheer rock face. The smaller features two 12m (40ft) statues of Nefertari flanked by four even larger colossi of Ramesses. Standing guard outside the big temple are four goliath seated statues of Ramesses, each nearly 21m (70ft) tall. Deep inside the larger temple – which places Ramesses II on equal footing with the gods – a ray of sunlight pierces twice a year: once on Ramesses' birthday.

Per-Ramesses or Piramesse

1280 BCE

Ramesses II built this sprawling com[plex] along the northeastern Nile Delta a[s] royal seat of the Ramessid Dynas[ty]. [The] site originally held a modest sum[mer] palace constructed by Ramesse[s] I and Seti I, but the great pharaoh g[ave it] supersize treatment, adding [over] 10km² (4mi²) of mansions, [temples], military barracks and an e[xpansive], opulently tiled throne roo[m] – fittingly dedicated to the g[reat] pharaoh, Ramesses himself.

Ramesseum

1270 BCE

This immense structure near Thebes was Ramesses' official memorial temple. Nearly every wall of the 285km² (11mi²) temple complex is scrawled with eulogies to his military victories, particularly the exaggerated depiction of his routing of the Hittites. In antiquity, dozens of imposing statues of Ramesses adorned each pillar. Today, the largest stone colossus lies broken on the ground. It is the inspiration for the English romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley's famous poem, *Ozymandias*.

Great Hall

1290–1224 BCE

Ramesses II completed the Great Hypostyle Hall at the Temple of Karnak during his reign, with decorations celebrating his power, much like everything else he had built. This 5,500m² (60,000ft²) monument, which is comprised of 16 rows and 134 columns – most of these columns are actually over 15m (50ft) in height. Later pharaohs would add their own decorations. The Great Hall is considered one of the greatest feats of building ever achieved in the ancient world.

"The pharaohs served multiple roles as religious leaders, military generals and political rulers"

To understand the impressive scope of Ramesses' architectural vision, we only have to look to the royal city that bore his name, Per-Ramesses, or Piramesse. Located 120 kilometres (75 miles) from modern-day Cairo, Piramesse began as a humble summer palace built by Ramesses' father Seti I near the family's ancestral home on the eastern edge of the Nile Delta. Over the course of 18 years of construction and expansion, Piramesse became the third-largest religious centre of Egypt – next to Memphis and Thebes – and the political capital of the entire empire.

Very little of Piramesse's grandeur remains today, but first-hand accounts describe a city of incomparable beauty and wealth. The Royal Quarter sat on a hill overlooking the Nile. Streets were lined with royal residences and temples, ten square kilometres (four square miles) of towering columns, expansive courtyards and stairways encrusted with multicoloured tile work. The empire's wealthiest families, government officials and high priests lived in surrounding villas connected by canals and lush water gardens. The farmland encircling the city was some of the most fertile and productive in the region, supplying Piramesse with ample grain, fruits and vegetables to feed its 30,000 citizens and fill the pharaoh's ample storehouses.

The interior of the temple at Abu Simbel

Piramesse was also a striking, cosmopolitan capitol. Ramesses likely chose the city's location for its proximity to the fortress at Sile, the traditional gateway to the eastern provinces of Palestine, Syria and the Asiatic empires beyond. Foreign diplomats, traders and migrant labourers arrived at the newly built capital in droves. In addition to the traditional Egyptian temples built to Seth and Amun, there were foreign cults dedicated to Ba'al, Anat and the Syrian goddess Astarte, whom the pharaoh adopted as the patron deity of his chariot horses. Piramesse may have been the 'Ramses' of the Old Testament, where Hebrew slaves were put to work on the pharaoh's great storehouses. Whether Ramesses himself was indeed the wicked pharaoh of *The Ten Commandments* fame is another matter.

Importantly, the pharaohs of ancient Egypt were more than mere figureheads; they served multiple roles as religious leaders, military generals and political rulers. The pharaoh's ultimate responsibility was to lead the empire toward *ma'at*, the ideal state of cosmic harmony, justice, order and peace. The Egyptians were skilled astronomers and charted the orderly and predictable movements of celestial bodies, each connected with a god or goddess. The goal of individual human beings and Egyptian society as a whole was to reflect the divine harmony of the heavens on Earth. The pharaoh, through his legal, religious and military roles, exerted the greatest influence of all.

In that sense, Ramesses was indeed a great pharaoh. The Egyptian empire enjoyed a prolonged period of stability and *ma'at* under his watch. For all of his posturing as a superhuman warrior who crushed his enemies by the hundreds of thousands, Ramesses was in fact a savvy military and political strategist. The historically dubious *Poem of Pentaur*

His glorious rule

Born into greatness
1303 BCE
Ramesses II didn't come from royal blood – his grandfather Ramesses I was a military hero who won the favour of the heirless Horemheb – but his birth coincided with Egypt's rise to increased military and political power.

Child-in-chief
1299 BCE
At only ten years old, Ramesses was appointed as commander-in-chief of the army. Four years later, he accompanied Seti on several military campaigns in Libya and Palestine.

Co-regent
1283 BCE
Ramesses was officially named co-ruler of Egypt in Seti's eighth year as pharaoh. Around this time, Ramesses and his two young sons led military campaigns to quash rebellions in Nubia, including an impressive chariot raid.

Crowned king
1279 BCE
At the death of Seti I, Ramesses had firmly established himself as a capable military leader and the rightful heir to the Ramessid throne. Thus began his six-decade reign.

'Victory' at Kadesh
1274 BCE
Both the Hittites and the Egyptians laid claim to the Kingdom of Amurru, located on the borderlands between these two superpowers in the 13th century BCE. The conflict came to a head in the historic Battle of Kadesh, one of the largest and best-documented military clashes in antiquity. Both sides claimed victory, but Ramesses was the better propagandist, inscribing his *Poem of Pentaur* – "he is braver than hundreds of thousands combined... not speaking boastfully" – on the walls of five major Egyptian temples.

Everlasting king
1213 BCE
Ramesses outlived his 12 oldest sons, reigning until the extraordinary age of 96. His mummy shows signs of severe and degenerative arthritis and a wicked case of smallpox, suggesting his last years were somewhat less than comfortable.

1303 BCE – 1300 BCE – 1299 BCE – 1293 BCE – 1283 BCE – 1279 BCE – 1275 BCE – 1274 BCE – 1249 BCE – 1213 BCE

The boy who would be king
1300 BCE
Ramesses II was a young boy when his father Seti I became pharaoh. Inside Seti I's impressive temple at Abdju, a colourful wall relief depicts the young Prince Ramesses holding a scroll upon which is written an unbroken royal lineage dating back to Menes, the first pharaoh who united Upper and Lower Egypt into a single kingdom. Egyptologists argue that Ramesses was likely only one of several possible successors to the throne, but the official history claims it as his sole birthright.

Marriage to Nefertari
1293 BCE
Nefertari was the first and best-known wife of Ramesses the Great. He married her while still a prince and she bore him four children before he ascended to the throne. Nefertari was from a prominent Egyptian family, the daughter of a high official and the sister of the mayor of Thebes. Ramesses' adoration of Nefertari is recorded in the statuary at the small temple at Abu Simbel and in works of elegiac poetry to his beloved first companion.

Construction boom
1275 BCE
After Kadesh, Ramesses enjoyed a period of relative peace during which he restored or constructed new temples at Thebes, Memphis, Karnak and Abu Simbel. Next to the pyramid makers, he's the most influential builder in Egyptian antiquity.

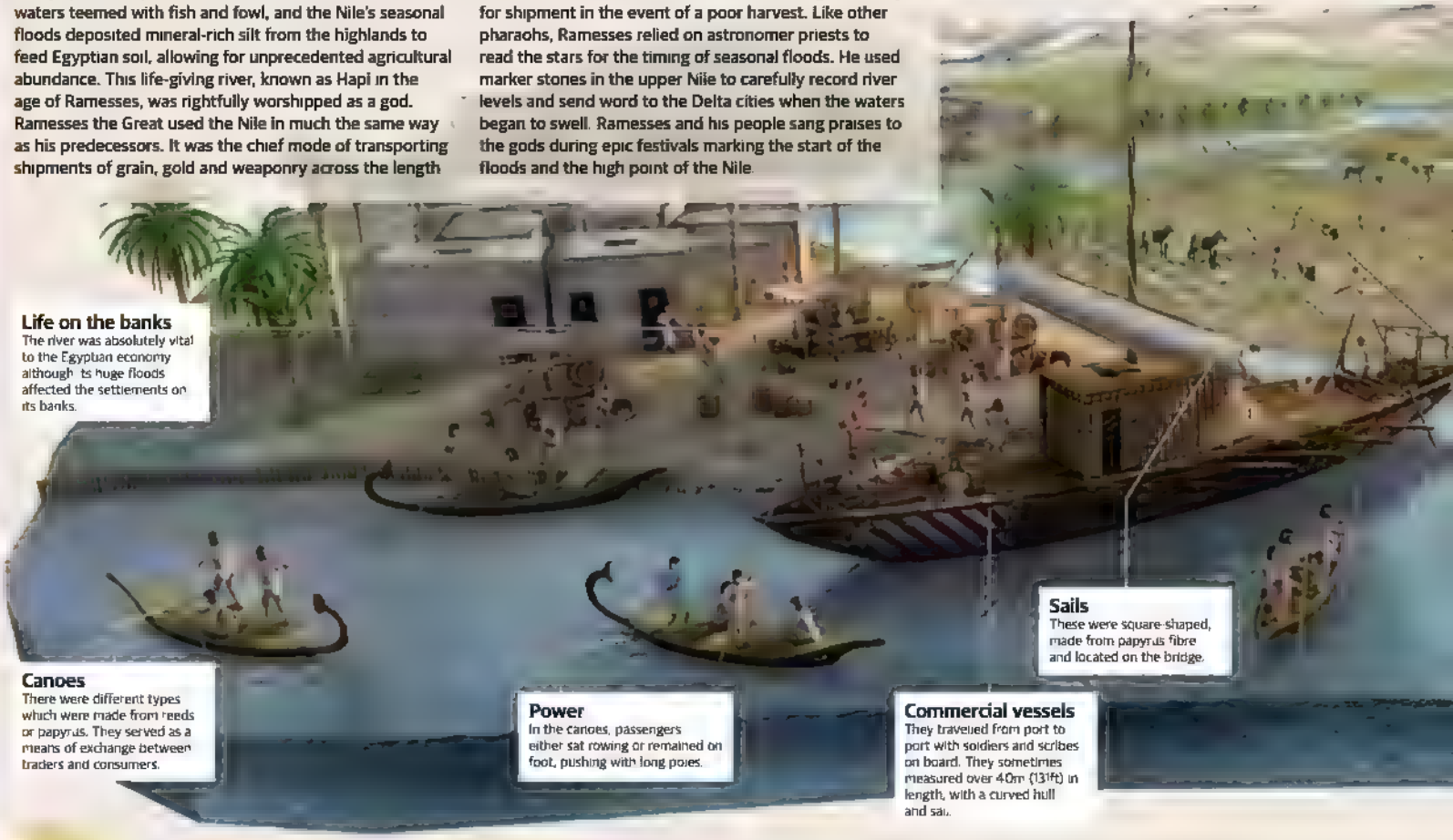
Deification
1249 BCE
Ramesses celebrated his first *sed* or jubilee festival in the 30th year of his reign when he was approximately 60 years old. The ancient ceremony dates back to the earliest pharaohs and was meant to renew the king's authority and rejuvenate him physically and spiritually. Ramesses celebrated 13 *seds*, each one elevating his spiritual status higher and higher. In a world-view that already considered pharaohs to be born of the gods, Ramesses likely attained full deification in the eyes of his people while still on Earth.

The Nile: 'Mother of all men'

It's impossible to overestimate the importance of the Nile to the ancient Egyptians. The 7,507-km (4,665-mi) river literally brought life to an arid desert wasteland. Its fertile valleys provided protection from the harsh elements, its waters teemed with fish and fowl, and the Nile's seasonal floods deposited mineral-rich silt from the highlands to feed Egyptian soil, allowing for unprecedented agricultural abundance. This life-giving river, known as Hapi in the age of Ramesses, was rightfully worshipped as a god. Ramesses the Great used the Nile in much the same way as his predecessors. It was the chief mode of transporting shipments of grain, gold and weaponry across the length of the empire. Ramesses placed his mortuary temple, the Ramesseum, along the banks of the upper Nile in Thebes so it doubled as the kingdom's reserve bank. The storehouse could hold 350 boatloads of grain, ready for shipment in the event of a poor harvest. Like other pharaohs, Ramesses relied on astronomer priests to read the stars for the timing of seasonal floods. He used marker stones in the upper Nile to carefully record river levels and send word to the Delta cities when the waters began to swell. Ramesses and his people sang praises to the gods during epic festivals marking the start of the floods and the high point of the Nile.

Backbone

Over the centuries, the Egyptian civilisation gradually settled along the banks of the final 1,300km (808mi) of the Nile. Farms dominated the landscape around its banks, and its waters were the primary means of communication. For daily tasks, small canoes were used; however, for trade or transporting passengers, strong sail boats were employed.



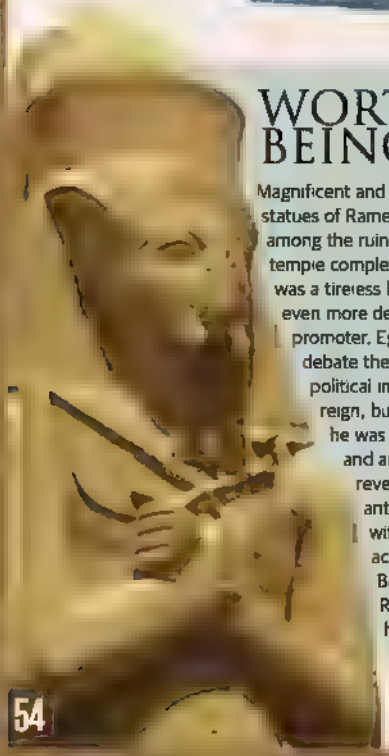
Life on the banks
The river was absolutely vital to the Egyptian economy although its huge floods affected the settlements on its banks.

Canoes
There were different types which were made from reeds or papyrus. They served as a means of exchange between traders and consumers.

Power
In the canoes, passengers either sat rowing or remained on foot, pushing with long poles.

Commercial vessels
They travelled from port to port with soldiers and scribes on board. They sometimes measured over 40m (131ft) in length, with a curved hull and sail.

Sails
These were square-shaped, made from papyrus fibre and located on the bridge.



Worthy of being called 'Great'?

Magnificent and imposing statues of Ramesses II are found among the ruins of every major temple complex in Egypt. He was a tireless builder and an even more dedicated self-promoter. Egyptologists debate the military or political importance of his reign, but all agree that he was the best known and among the most revered pharaohs in antiquity. Starting with his revisionist account of the Battle of Kadesh, Ramesses and his army of poets and scribes published his exploits in hieroglyphic glory across the empire. His reign spanned six decades, the second longest in Egyptian history. His longevity coupled with some lucky timing – his rule coincided with the golden age of Egyptian power, culture and material abundance – gave him plenty of time to brag and plenty of material to brag about. During his lifetime, Ramesses constructed dozens of temples and castle complexes, and celebrated his god-like achievements through self-dedicated festivals. He placed his own image alongside the highest gods in the Egyptian pantheon and the people worshiped him thusly. Did he deserve such reverence? The real truth is lost to history. The only portrait we have of Ramesses is the one drawn by the pharaoh himself: that of a war hero, potent patriarch and a god among men. This is the same persona imposed upon centuries of Egyptians who stared up at his immense stone images and awed at the power of Ramesses the Great.

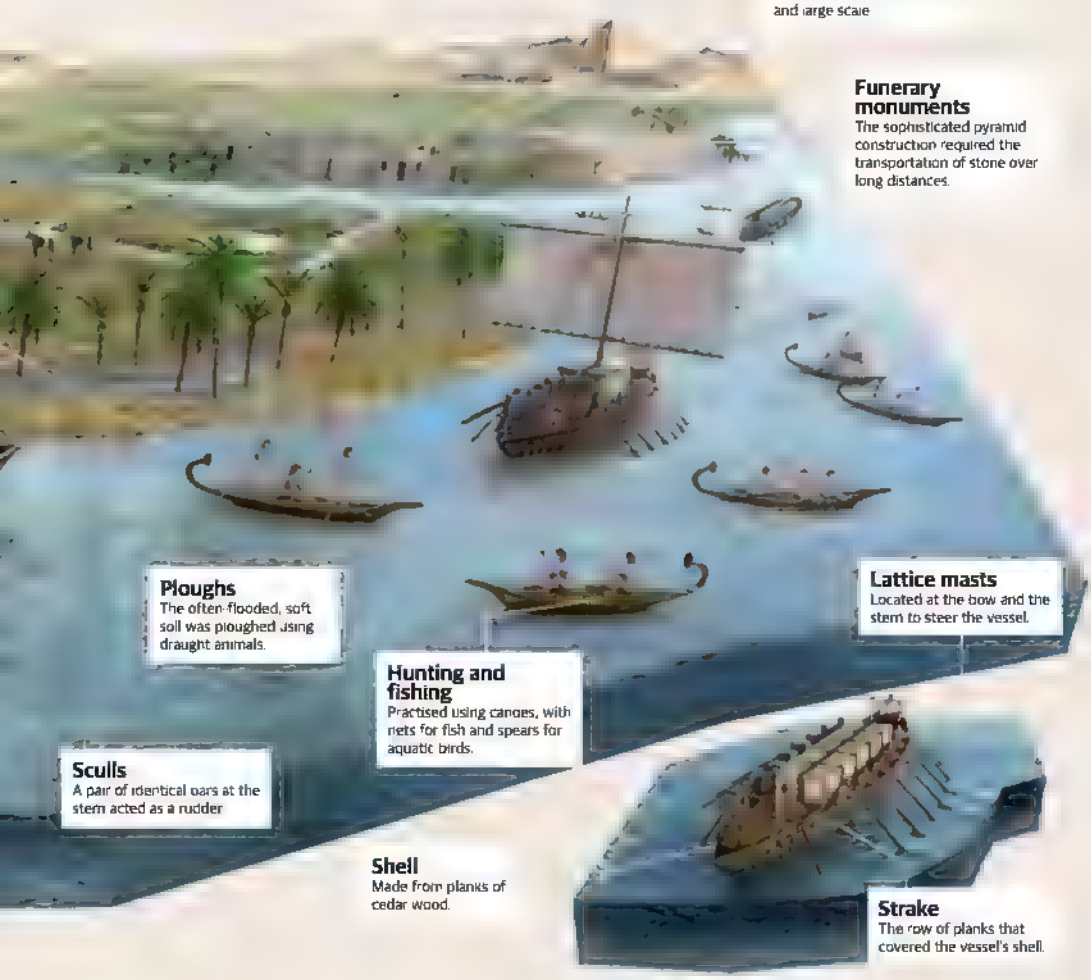
is not the only document of Ramesses' greatness. Hanging in the hallways of the United Nations building in New York City is a clay replica of the world's first peace treaty signed in 1269 BCE by the Hittite King Hattusilis III and Egypt's very own Ramesses II. Was this the peace treaty the Hittites begged Ramesses to sign after his brutal show of strength during the Battle of Kadesh? Not at all.

The true outcome of the Battle of Kadesh was a blood-soaked stalemate. Ramesses was saved from the Hittite chariot ambush by the arrival of reinforcements from the sea. The Egyptians pushed the Hittites back across the Orontes, but both sides lost so many men in the slaughter that both kings lost their appetite for the main event. Ramesses returned to Egypt with nothing to show for a months-long military campaign.

A decade later, and the pharaoh once again looked to prove his power by driving his forces to the north to test the strength of Amurru and Kadesh. This time, the Hittite King Muwatalli was

Nile – a hub of transportation

The River Nile was the link between the various Egyptian cities, from the Second Cataracts of Lower Nubia to the Mediterranean Sea. A whole host of vessels travelled the river, transporting people and goods from one side of the empire to the other


Canals
These distributed the water during swells of the Nile to fertilize the fields.
Cropland
Wheat and barley were produced in the irrigated fields and transported on a small and large scale
Funerary monuments
The sophisticated pyramid construction required the transportation of stone over long distances.
Ploughs
The often-flooded, soft soil was ploughed using draught animals.
Lattice masts
Located at the bow and the stem to steer the vessel.
Hunting and fishing
Practised using canoes, with nets for fish and spears for aquatic birds.
Sculls
A pair of identical oars at the stern acted as a rudder
Shell
Made from planks of cedar wood.
Strake
The row of planks that covered the vessel's shell.

> "He saw an opportunity to drop a centuries-old-feud that cost Egyptian lives and resources"

dead and the Hittite empire was in the throes of a succession crisis. Ramesses easily took the city and claimed Amurru for Egypt. Expecting a full-scale reprisal by the Hittites, Ramesses was instead greeted by a cadre of Hittite diplomats. The new King Hattusilis had more to worry about than an Egyptian pharaoh with an old vendetta. The Assyrians to the east had amassed wealth and political might that threatened to crush any single empire that stood in its way. But together, Hattusilis proposed, the Hittites and Egyptians could defend their sovereignty

The peace treaty hanging in the UN is a testament to Ramesses' long-term political vision. He could easily have viewed Hattusilis' offer as a sign of weakness and attempted to rout the Hittites once and for all. Instead, he saw an opportunity to drop a centuries-old feud that cost Egyptian lives and resources and engaged in an unprecedented act of diplomacy that would bring peace and stability to the kingdom for generations to come. To seal the newly brokered relationship between the Hittites and Egyptians, Ramesses accepted the gift of one of Hattusilis' daughters as his seventh principal wife.

Back in Piramesse, the royal capital, the new Hittite allies proved invaluable to the strengthening of the Egyptian armed forces. The capital city was more than a showcase for the prosperity of the empire. It also housed the pharaoh's largest armoury, a massive bronze-smelting factory whose blast furnace provided the swords, spears and arrowheads for Egypt's army. Shortly after the peace treaty was signed, Ramesses imported Hittite craftsmen to instruct the armoury workers in the secrets behind their impervious Hittite shields. The Egyptians may have lost an enemy in the Hittites, but there were plenty of aggressors itching to take their place. Until the very end of his reign, Ramesses vigilantly defended Egypt's borders against threats from Libyan tribal leaders, Assyrian raiders and more

Ramesses' power was about much more than military might, though; he was a god among men. To understand his significance as a religious leader, it is important to understand how the ancient Egyptians viewed the universe. From its earliest beginnings, ancient Egyptian religious worship centred on a deeply held belief in the afterlife. In fact, the concept of *ma'at* originated with the ostrich-winged goddess Ma'at who 'weighs' the hearts of the deceased to determine their worth. The dozens of other gods and goddesses in the Egyptian pantheon – Ra, Osiris, Amun, Isis, Seth and many more – each played a role within a complex mythology of creation, death and rebirth. To the average Egyptian in Ramesses' time, the gods were responsible for the orderly function of the universe and offered personal protection and guidance on the mysterious journey from life to the afterlife. Egyptians expressed their gratitude and devotion to the gods through the celebration of seasonal festivals and by bringing offerings to the gods' temples.

The pharaoh, of course, was not your average Egyptian. The royal cult was deserving of its own worship. Ramesses was the intermediary between the divine and the human. While living, pharaohs were the sons of Ra, the powerful Sun god. In the afterlife pharaohs are the offspring of Osiris. In a competing cosmology, pharaohs are the living incarnation of Horus, the son of Isis. In any case, the implications are clear. The pharaoh is the earthly link to an unbroken line of divine authority, stretching from the very creation of the universe itself to the eternities of the afterlife

The government of ancient Egypt was a theocracy with the pharaoh as absolute monarch. But that doesn't mean that Ramesses personally oversaw each and every aspect of Egyptian civil life. His chief political officers were two *viziers* or prime ministers, one each for Upper and Lower Egypt. Viziers served as chief

BATTLE CHARIOTS

The Egyptians and Hittites adopted the horse-driven chariot from the Asiatic steppe cultures. Horses weren't mounted in battle but strapped to rolling platforms holding a driver and one or more warriors. Speedy chariots could dash in and out of battle, attacking with a combination of arrows and close-range javelins and spears. The Hittites were famed charioteers, charging en masse with thousands of chariots carrying chain-mailed warriors. Egyptian chariots were lighter, the frames made of wood wrapped in stretched canvas, and the floor made from leather netting.

The battle of Kadesh was history's largest chariot battle

BATTLE OF KADESH

Hittite army
Egyptian army division
Hittite manoeuvre
Egyptian manoeuvre

1. Ramesses on the march
Ramesses led a massive Egyptian force but Hittite spies tricked him into thinking the Hittite chariots were hundreds of kilometres away.

2. Surprise attack
Muwatalli and a battalion of 2,500 Hittite chariots were waiting in the forests on the other side of Kadesh. The Egyptian divisions were miles from camp when they were broadsided by a charge of Hittite charioteers. The Egyptians fled with the Hittites hot on their heels

3. Ramesses' stand
The Hittite chariots crashed through the half-prepared defences of Ramesses' camp and charged toward the royal tents. According to Ramesses' account, he fought off the Hittite hordes single-handedly. Others credit his elite corps of bodyguards.

4. Reinforcements
Egyptian military strategists had foreseen the threat of an ambush and shipped a chariot division to Kadesh by sea. The reinforcements send Muwatalli's forces retreating across the Orontes River

5. Fruitless bloodshed
The next day, the forces faced off for the battle that would decide supremacy. But both sides had sustained so many casualties the day before that neither had anything left and after fruitless bloodshed the a ceasefire was called.

Ramesses' camp
Egyptian reinforcements
Amun
Kadesh
Ra
Ptah
Seth

"Ramesses renovated or constructed more temples than any pharaoh in all 30 ancient-Egyptian dynasties"

justices of the Egyptian courts, they collected taxes, managed the grain reserves, settled territorial disputes and kept careful records of Nile river levels and rainfall. Treasurers managed the finances of 'church' and state and ran the stone quarries that built national shrines. If an average Egyptian had a grievance, he would take it up with the local governors in charge of each of Egypt's 42 *nomes* or states. Governors reported to the viziers, who met daily with the pharaoh for counsel.

During his long life, Ramesses renovated or constructed more temples than any pharaoh in all 30 ancient-Egyptian dynasties. He also placed his figure prominently inside each and every one of them, often on equal footing with the gods.

At first, this appears to be an unparalleled act of hubris. But seen through the lens of the Egyptian religious mind, this spiritual self-promotion starts to make sense. If the highest goal of Egyptian civilisation is to achieve *ma'at* or divine harmony, then you need a supreme leader whose very will is in absolute harmony with the gods. Through his numerous construction projects, Ramesses proved his devotion to the gods while also nurturing his own thriving cult of personality.

Ramesses built some truly refined and subtle temples, especially his small addition to his father Seti I's monumental temple complex at Abydos. But refined and subtle was not in his nature. For starters, he liked to do things quickly. In traditional temple construction, all decorative motifs on the outside of a temple were hewn using incised relief, in which images and hieroglyphs are carved into the stone to accentuate the contrast of sun and shadow. In the darkened interiors of temples, however, artists used the more time-consuming bas-relief method, in which drawings and symbols are raised relative to the background. In the interest of time, Ramesses ordered all of his temples to be etched in incise relief inside and out. That's one reason why Ramesses built more temples than any king before or since.

Critics of Ramesses' theatrical and self-congratulatory construction style have irrefutable evidence in the two temples at Abu Simbel. Both structures are carved directly into the living rock on a sheer cliff overlooking a switchback curve in the Nubian Nile. Ramesses dropped all pretence of piety with the construction of the larger temple at Abu Simbel, appropriately called the Temple of Ramesses-beloved-of-Amun. Four monumental

EGYPTIAN GODS

Ra
Ra the Sun god is also the supreme creation god of the Egyptian pantheon. The falcon-headed deity created the Earth, sky and Moon. Pharaohs paid tribute to Ra as his adoptive sons. The cult of Ra was widespread throughout Egypt promising health and virility with acolytes thronging the great temple of Ra in Heliopolis.

Osiris
The cult of the god Osiris is closely connected with death, but the myth of Osiris is actually a story of resurrection. Osiris was killed by his brother Seth, but the gods favoured him and brought him back to life. In the *Book of the Dead*, Osiris acts as the chief judge of all non-royal Egyptians in the afterlife and weighs their soul.

Isis
The most beloved and long worshipped goddess in ancient Egypt. She was the wife of Osiris and the mother of Horus. Ramesses and other pharaohs were considered incarnations of Horus. The Isis cult was so widespread during the Greek and Roman periods that a temple dedicated to the goddess once stood in modern-day London.

Bastet
This major Egyptian goddess had the body of a woman with the head of a cat. In ancient Egypt the cat was a revered animal like no other. Bastet was one of the many daughters of the Sun god Ra and a great temple was built in her honour at Bubastis in the Nile Delta. Originally a goddess of warfare, she later became a gentle protective goddess.

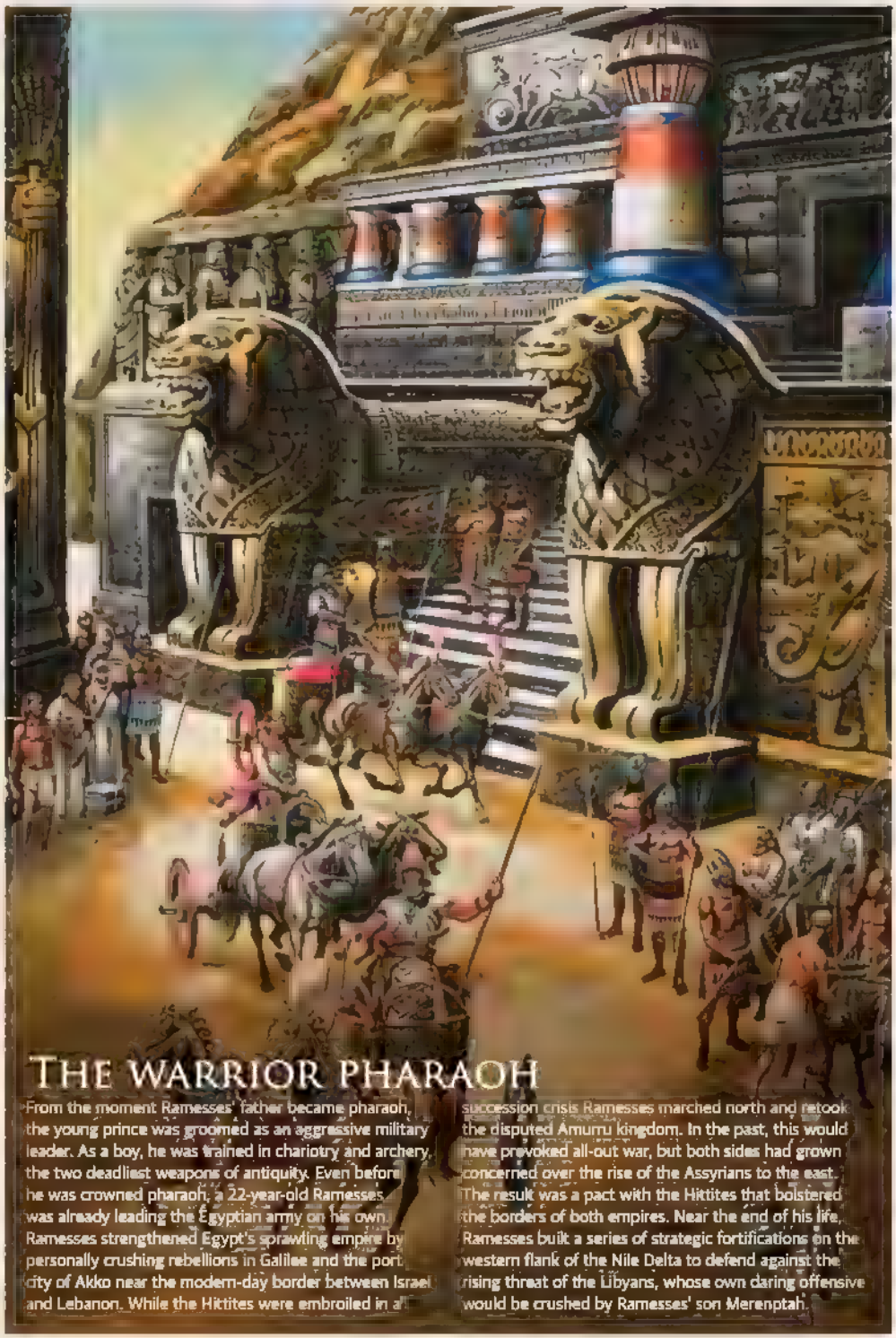
A GOD AMONG MEN

From the earliest Egyptian dynasties dating back to 3000 BCE, the king or pharaoh was worshipped alongside the gods as a lesser deity specifically the Earthly incarnation of Horus, the sky god. In fact, by bringing order and peace to the kingdom, a beneficent pharaoh was re-enacting the divine creation of the Egyptian universe out of chaos. Although pharaohs like Djoser and Khufu rose to near-godlike status during their lifetime through the construction of the great pyramids, it wasn't until the New Kingdom era of Amenhotep III and Ramesses II that pharaohs were officially deified in the flesh

Amenhotep used the occasion of his *sed* festival to announce his transfiguration from king to god. The *sed* is an ancient royal festival traditionally celebrated during the 30th year of a pharaoh's reign. It's a rejuvenation ceremony held at the pharaoh's memorial temple – a combination of funeral and coronation all at once. Always the overachiever, Ramesses didn't even wait for his first *sed* festival. By the eighth year of his reign, he was ordering the construction of giant statues engraved with the name "Ramesses-the-god." Ramesses went on to place similar deified engravings of himself in the doorways of all of Egypt's major temples, where locals would pay homage to the "god among men" along with the celestial deities like Ra, Osiris and Ptah. In an odd twist, Ramesses is often depicted in reliefs offering sacrifices to his own deified self. In his later years, Ramesses took to celebrating the sed renewal festival every three years, then annually. These provided excellent opportunities to showcase his divine power – through public celebrations of his victories and impressive construction projects – and to solidify his divine authority

statues of Ramesses – each more than 21 metres (70 feet) tall – guard the entry to the temple. Inside, it's wall-to-wall Ramesses. Every pillar in the great hall is carved with Ramesses in the form of Osiris. Wall reliefs recount Ramesses' heroic military exploits. And deep in the Holy of Holies sit the three most revered creator gods of the Egyptian pantheon – Ptah, Amun and Ra – next to none other than the deified image of Ramesses himself

In his day, Ramesses was arguably the most powerful man to walk the Earth. He was the divinely ordained ruler of a thriving and cohesive civilization centuries ahead of its time. As pharaoh, he overachieved in every category: crushing foreign enemies, maintaining domestic order and building massive monuments to the gods and his own glorious name. As long as his stoic stone visage crowns the ruins of his magnificent kingdom, the greatness of Ramesses will continue to echo loudly through the ages.



THE WARRIOR PHARAOH

From the moment Ramesses' father became pharaoh, the young prince was groomed as an aggressive military leader. As a boy, he was trained in chariotry and archery, the two deadliest weapons of antiquity. Even before he was crowned pharaoh, a 22-year-old Ramesses was already leading the Egyptian army on his own. Ramesses strengthened Egypt's sprawling empire by personally crushing rebellions in Galilee and the port city of Akko near the modern-day border between Israel and Lebanon. While the Hittites were embroiled in a succession crisis Ramesses marched north and retook the disputed Amurru kingdom. In the past, this would have provoked all-out war, but both sides had grown concerned over the rise of the Assyrians to the east. The result was a pact with the Hittites that bolstered the borders of both empires. Near the end of his life, Ramesses built a series of strategic fortifications on the western flank of the Nile Delta to defend against the rising threat of the Libyans, whose own daring offensive would be crushed by Ramesses' son Merenptah.

Anubis
This jackal-headed god would hold the scales on which the hearts of dead Egyptians were weighed; if the heart was light enough, Anubis would lead the dead to Osiris (the god of the afterlife) but if it was too heavy, the soul would be destroyed. Anubis was more highly revered than Osiris up until the Middle Kingdom era.

Ptah
Represented as a man in the form of a mummy, Ptah was the god of craftsmen, architects and the demiurge that existed before all things. It was his thought that actually made the world manifest itself and as such he was an extremely important god – a prototypical god of creation and imagination.

Seth
Composed of various different animals, Seth was the semi-villainous god of storms and chaos. Out of jealously he murdered his brother Osiris and hacked his body into pieces so he could not be resurrected. However, in some of the outlying parts of the Egyptian empire, he was regarded as a heroic chief deity.

Tefnut
Tefnut was strongly associated with both the Moon and the Sun but was known as the goddess of moisture and the mother of the sky and the Earth. She was generally depicted as either a lioness or a woman with a lion's head, with a temper to match, and was frequently drawn holding a sceptre, a sign of power

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TOP 10 CELEBRITY SPIES

Discover the secret identities of famous faces who used their privileged status to serve their country

Written by Jack Parsons

Anonymity is often considered an essential aspect of espionage so the association of famous names with the clandestine world of cloak-and-dagger spies might seem a little odd. However, many famous names associated with literature, entertainment and sports have been linked to espionage and military intelligence throughout history. In some cases, spying taught them the skills that made them famous; for others, being famous actually made them the perfect spies.

Spying has a long history. Chinese general Sun Tzu wrote in *The Art of War*, "Enlightened rulers and good generals who are able to obtain intelligent agents as spies are certain for great achievements." Purloined letters, official eavesdropping and keeping your enemies under surveillance have been recorded among ancient cultures as varied as the Aztecs, the Romans and the Mongols.

During the Middle Ages, when the Vatican was more powerful than many individual governments, the Popes had a massive network of spies. Its most famous form was that of the Inquisition. However during the first crusade in 1095, Pope Urban II employed special agents to infiltrate prisons to free captured crusaders and sabotage mosques and military defences.

During the Renaissance, the court of Queen Elizabeth I was a hotbed of scheming spies. Sir Francis Walsingham became the Queen's spymaster, constantly keeping her one step ahead of her adversaries, foiling assassination attempts and undermining Catholic subversives abroad.

However, espionage in the modern sense of dedicated state ministries of professional spies didn't really appear until the 20th century with the emergence of bodies like the British Secret Service in 1909 and the Office of Strategic Services in 1942, which would later become the Central Intelligence Agency. Appropriately enough, this same era saw celebrity culture explode with mass communications, such as the radio and cinema, allowing anybody to achieve their fifteen minutes of fame and become known the world over.

This rundown of the best celebrity spies in history does favour contemporary famous faces, if only because World War II was such a vast theatre of war for both the regular military and the intelligence service that so many agents were recruited. However, there are some big names from the more distant past that may also have been spies. For some of these celebrities, spying taught them the skills that made them famous; for others, their very fame made them the perfect spies.

0010 ROALD DAHL

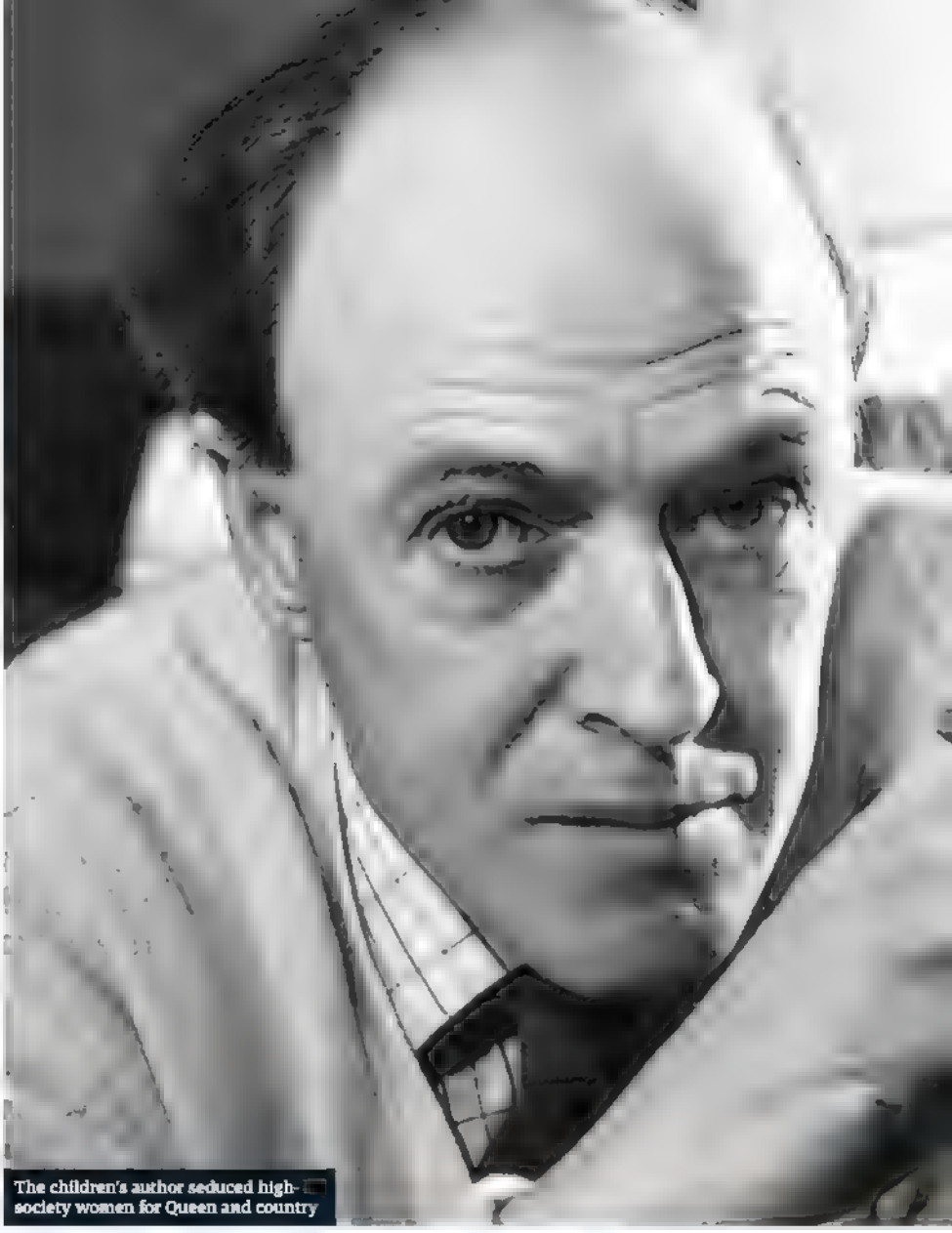
British 1916 1990

The children's author who wrote *The BFG* and *Matilda* had a much more X-rated job during World War II. Before the United States joined the war, Dahl was recruited to sleep with high-society women.

After being shot down as a Royal Air Force fighter pilot over Libya in 1940, sustaining a fractured skull and temporary blindness, Dahl was rendered unable to fly. In 1942, he was transferred to a desk job at the British Embassy in Washington DC. However, he proved so popular with high-society ladies there that British Intelligence quickly found another role for him: seducing women and using them to promote Britain's interests in the United States.

Chiefly this meant combating the America First movement, which was reluctant to join the war in Europe. He is known to have had an affair with Millicent Rogers, the heiress to a Standard Oil fortune, and formed friendships with many other prominent public figures, including vice president Henry Wallace and Charles Marsh, a self-made Texan newspaper magnate.

However, Dahl didn't always enjoy his unique mission. Clare Booth Luce, a prominent US Congresswoman and isolationist who was married to *Time* magazine founder Henry Luce, was reportedly so frisky in the bedroom that Dahl begged to be let off the assignment.



The children's author seduced high-society women for Queen and country

009 GIACOMO CASANOVA

Italian, 1725-1798

A byword for libertinism, many assume that Casanova was a fictional character. However, Giacomo Girolamo Casanova was a real person, an 18th-century adventurer who in addition to being a famous lover, was a prolific writer, self-proclaimed alchemist, wily businessman and professional spy.

Denounced as a magician – a dishonourable practice at the time – in Venice in 1755, Casanova was sentenced to five years in prison. However, after escaping his capturers, he made his way to France. In the early days of the Seven Year War, he reconnected with an old friend who was now the foreign secretary for King Louis XV of France, who offered him work spying on British warships.

After 18 years travelling Europe in exile, Casanova sought to ingratiate himself with his homeland by spying in Rome for the Venetian Inquisition. Eventually granted a pardon in 1774, he returned to Venice, but was forced to become an Inquisition spy again to maintain his lavish and expensive lifestyle. He spent the final years of his eventful life (1785-98) in Bohemia as librarian for Count von Waldstein, where he wrote his autobiography, which is regarded as one of the most authentic sources for customs and etiquette for Europe in the 1700s.

"After 18 years travelling Europe in exile, Casanova sought to ingratiate himself with his homeland by spying in Rome"

Other profession: Adventurer

Though he was a qualified lawyer, Casanova relied on patrons to fund his glamorous lifestyle of girls, gambling and fine wine. He also worked as soldier, a librarian, a card shark and posed as an alchemist.

Worked for: The Venetian Inquisition

The Inquisition was a clandestine tribunal of three judges chosen from Venetian government, the close-knit Council of Ten. They employed hundreds of spies across Europe to deal with threats to state security.

Greatest success: Spying on the British

Though Casanova worked for the Inquisition much longer, it was only peddling gossip. His espionage in Dunkirk was of much greater consequence. The First Lord of the French Admiralty called his report 'perfectly accurate and very suggestive.'

Roald Dahl (left) and Ernest Hemingway (right) in London during 1944

Other profession: Author

Dahl wrote many famous children's stories, including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and The Giant Peach* and *The Fantastic Mr Fox*. Dahl's children stories have sold over 55 million copies worldwide.

Worked for: British Security Coordination

Part of MI6, this covert organization produced pro-British propaganda, influencing news stories in the *New York Post* and *The Herald Tribune*. The BSC also protected Atlantic convoys from sabotage.

Greatest success: Influencing opinion

While the US joined eventually joined the war, this was because of the Pearl Harbor attack rather than any secret nighttime liaisons. However, Dahl was successful in his duties, influencing many newspaper editors and reporters as well as smuggling documents back to British Intelligence.

Casanova became a spy to fund his lavish lifestyle

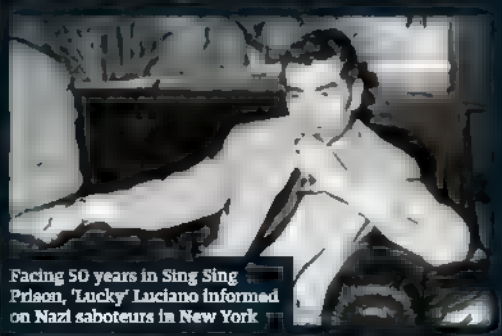
007 CHARLES 'LUCKY' LUCIANO

Italian, 1897-1962

A New York mob boss might seem like an odd ally for US Intelligence, but Charles 'Lucky' Luciano worked for them throughout the Forties. He reported on Nazi saboteurs and may have provided information on where Allies could land in Sicily when invading Italy.

The head of the Genovese crime family, Luciano ran lucrative rackets in gambling, extortion and loan sharking. He associated with everyone from Al Capone to Frank Sinatra. However, in 1936 he was sentenced to a 30 to 50-year prison sentence for 62 counts of "compulsory prostitution."

In 1942, a French ocean liner called the Normandie set fire and sank while being converted into a troop transport ship. Suspecting sabotage and knowing of Luciano's links to gangs that controlled the dockworkers, US authorities recruited him to uncover the perpetrator. He was allowed unsupervised prison visits from his mob connections and in a matter of weeks, eight German spies had been arrested for the Normandie sinking.



Facing 50 years in Sing Sing Prison, 'Lucky' Luciano informed on Nazi saboteurs in New York

Other profession: Mob boss

Through various dealings and back-stabbings, 'Lucky' Luciano rose through the ranks of the mafia to head one of New York's Five Families. In his prime he was one of New York's most powerful men.

Worked for: US Office of Naval Intelligence

Formed in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, by WWII the ONI covered everything from intercepting Japanese communications in the Pacific to ferreting out spies and saboteurs in New York.

Greatest success: Operation Husky

Luciano worked for the ONI for the duration of the war. In preparation for the 1943 Allied invasion of Sicily, historian Tim Newark claims the mobster provided the US military with mafia contacts in Sicily.

007 IAN FLEMING

British, 1908-1964

Handsome, aristocratic, a lover of women, drinking and gambling, author Ian Fleming invested a lot of his own personality into his fictional creation, super-spy James Bond. Though he never single-handedly saved the world like action man 007, from his desk at the British Naval Authority, Fleming used his imagination for outlandish spy schemes to aid the war effort in World War II.

Employed as the head of Naval Intelligence's personal assistant, his job was supposed to only involve sending interdepartmental memos. But in September 1940, he pitched an idea on how to steal the Enigma codes to Rear Admiral John Godfrey. Known as Operation Ruthless, the plan was to steal a German bomber, man it with a German-speaking crew and crash it into the English Channel. The crew would attack the German rescuers and bring their boat and Enigma machine back to England. Much to the annoyance of Alan Turing at Bletchley Park, the plan wasn't carried out, after an RAF official pointed out a Heinkel bomber would sink rather quickly.

However, Godfrey rewarded Fleming's initiative and in 1941 he was put in charge of Operation Goldeneye. Less daring than the Bond film of the same name, Fleming was sent to Gibraltar to set up contingencies in case Spain sided with Axis Forces. He also accompanied Godfrey to the US, where he assisted writing a blueprint on running an intelligence agency that would create the OSS. For his efforts, Fleming was awarded an engraved .38 Colt Police Positive revolver.

Fleming's greatest achievement was forming the 30 Assault Unit in 1942. This specialist intelligence unit raided enemy headquarters on the front lines looking for secret documents. This included a failed attempt to uncover an Enigma machine during the Dieppe Raid and service during the Battle of Normandy. In 1944, he formed the even more select T-Force, which targeted nuclear laboratories, gas research centres and individual rocket scientists for the US and British militaries.

"For his efforts, Fleming was awarded an engraved .38 Colt Police Positive revolver"

Sidney Reilly: The real James Bond

Though Fleming was involved in many daring plots, none of these compared to the first-hand adventures of Sidney Reilly, who he used in part as the real-life model for James Bond. Known as the 'Ace of Spies', this Jewish Russian-born secret agent obtained German naval secrets and petrol concessions for the British, as well as attempting to overthrow the Bolshevik regime in Russia in 1918. Though he often worked for the British Secret Intelligence Service, he was not inherently loyal to the British, also working for rival nations Imperial Russia, Germany and Japan – sometimes simultaneously.

Reilly's friend, diplomat and journalist, Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart, publicised many of the spy's adventures in the *London Evening Standard*. Beginning with a one-off in 1918 about the failed Bolshevik counter-insurgence and followed up with a series entitled 'Master Spy', after Reilly's death in 1925. Fleming was a good acquaintance of Lockhart, so heard much about Reilly from the man himself as well as likely reading the newspaper serial. As well as being the hero of many daring adventures, Fleming's Bond shared a love of gambling and fine living with Reilly, as well as fluency in multiple languages.

Other profession: Author
Fleming is famous for creating the spy hero James Bond, who first appeared in *Casino Royale*, published in 1954. A 007 novel was then published every year until Fleming's death in 1964.

Worked for: Naval Intelligence Division
A division of the British Admiralty, the NID was involved in many covert operations during World War II, including Bletchley Park's decryption efforts as well as spy missions and sabotage in Europe.

Greatest success: Operation Eclipse
While many of his early schemes never came to fruition, he was in charge of 30 AU and T-Force commandos and was able to choose his own missions. Perhaps most dramatic of these, was T-Force's single-handed seizure of the port of Kiel in Germany days before regular troops arrived

Long before Ian Fleming invented James Bond he was a spymaster during World War II

007 HARRY HOUDINI

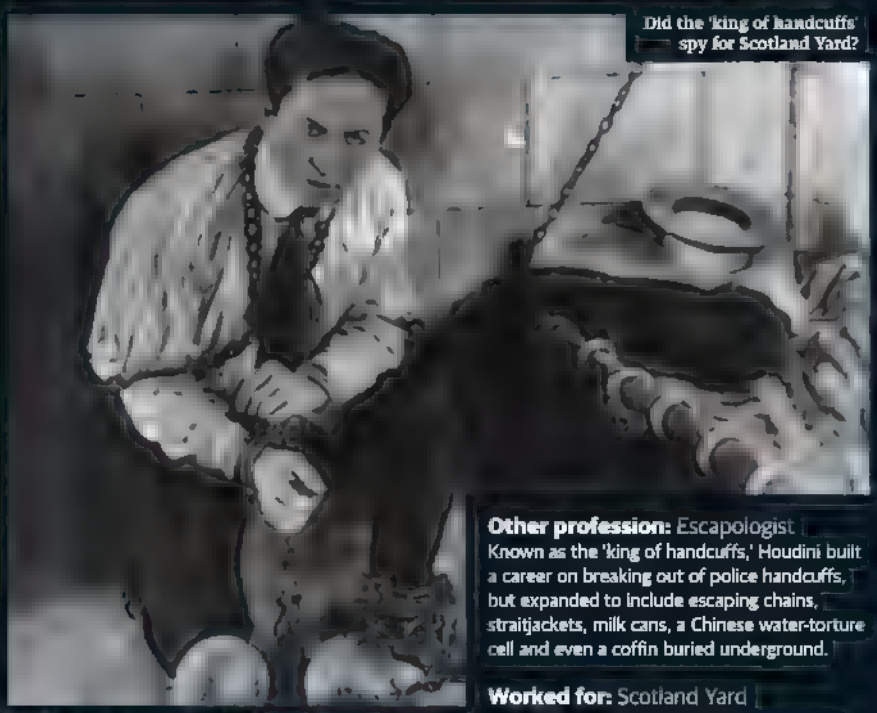
Hungarian, 1874-1926

This American magician wowed the world with his great escapes, from breaking out of straitjackets underwater to surviving being buried alive. His stunts grabbed the headlines, but did they also attract the attention of intelligence services on both sides of the Atlantic?

Authors William Kalush and Larry Sloman lay out a scenario where Houdini, using his profession as cover, collected information for secret service agencies in the US and Britain. They made the link after reviewing a journal belonging to William Melville, a British spymaster, who mentioned Houdini.

Melville, a superintendent for Scotland Yard's Special Branch in 1902, helped launch Houdini's European career by arranging an audition with a London theatre owner – along with providing the handcuffs for his act. The book suggests Melville did this as part of a quid pro quo for Houdini working as a spy. While touring Europe, Houdini's missions are thought to have included befriending the top brass in the German police force and sending reports back to Melville, as well as reporting on anarchists in Russia.

The authors of *The Secret Life of Houdini* also claim the magician may have worked for the US Secret Service, helping catch counterfeiters on the West Coast in 1899. However, not all historians agree with Kalush and Sloman's claims. Links have been drawn between Houdini and the Chicago police force for years, but to call Houdini a secret agent "in the James Bond sense" might be taking a little too many liberties, a historian of magic, Richard Kohn, told the *New York Sun*. "He may well have been an observer who passed along observations," he commented.



Did the 'king of handcuffs' spy for Scotland Yard?

Other profession: Escapologist
Known as the 'king of handcuffs,' Houdini built a career on breaking out of police handcuffs, but expanded to include escaping chains, straitjackets, milk cans, a Chinese water-torture cell and even a coffin buried underground.

Worked for: Scotland Yard
In 1909, William Melville would head up the precursor to MI5, but he employed many spies while superintendent of Scotland Yard's Special Branch from 1893 to 1903.

Greatest success: Fame
If we accept Kalush and Sloman's interpretation of Houdini, perhaps his greatest achievement was persuading Melville and US authorities to launch his career. He became the highest-paid performer in American vaudeville throughout the Twenties.

"The magician may have worked for the US Secret Service, helping catch counterfeiters on the West Coast"

005 CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE

British, 1564-1593

While his plays were once the talk of London, Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe is now best remembered by conspiracy theorists as the real identity of William Shakespeare. This idea has been widely discredited, but there is some evidence that Marlowe may have led a double life as a spy.

In 1587, the Privy Council forced Cambridge University to award Marlowe a Masters degree. The university had hesitated to bestow the honour when rumours went around Marlowe intended to become a Roman Catholic priest when he graduated, a crime in Protestant England. However, the Privy Council vouched for Marlowe, commending him for his "faithful dealing" and "good service" to the Queen.

What this service involved was never explained, but records from the time show his extended absences from classes and spending way beyond his scholarship would afford him in the dining halls, further suggesting he was being paid by the crown for unknown missions.

"There is some evidence that Marlowe may have led a double life"

Other profession: Playwright

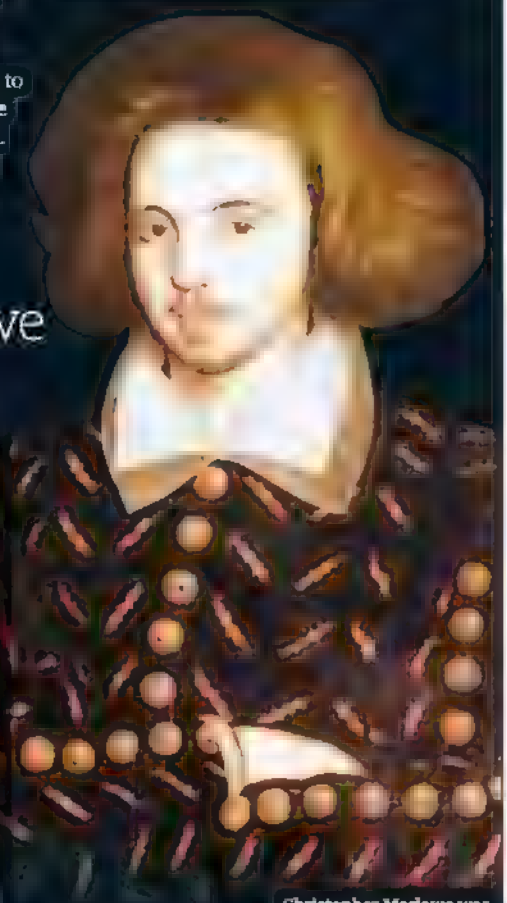
After graduating from Cambridge University, Marlowe moved to London where he began writing seriously in 1587. While the exact order of his plays' writing is unknown, *Tamburlaine the Great: Part I* was his first.

Worked for: The Privy Council

The Earl of Leicester was known to employ couriers during his campaign in the Netherlands. However, Marlowe was also affiliated with Sir Francis Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth I's spymaster, receiving literary patronage from his son Sir Thomas.

Greatest success: Unknown

Not knowing the exact nature of his "good service," it's hard to say. As well as being a courier, it's also been suggested he infiltrated Catholic plotters in the Netherlands and posed as a tutor to spy on Arbella Stuart, a potential successor to the childless Elizabeth I.



Christopher Marlowe was Shakespeare's contemporary and possibly a secret agent as well

Was Marlowe assassinated?

Aged just 29 Marlowe died after being stabbed in the eye in a bar brawl in Deptford, London, on 30 May 1593. An inquest concluded his killer, Ingram Frizer, had acted in self-defence after an argument over an outstanding bill. However, both Frizer and the testifying witness to the fight, Nicholas Skeres, are known to have been employed by Sir Francis Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth I's famous spymaster. This has led many to speculate Marlowe's murder was politically motivated.

Ten days before his death, Marlowe had to present himself daily to the Privy Council, accused of atheism and heresy. The charges may have been trumped up, but his plays, including *Doctor Faustus*, in which a man sells his soul to the devil, were very controversial. Historian Park Honan suggests Walsingham's links to the increasingly infamous playwright might affect his position at court. Faced with the loss of lucrative royal favours, Walsingham had Marlowe whacked, or so the myth goes.

Other profession: Entertainer

...dancer, jazz singer and an... Baker had many roles in the ...tainment industry. She was ... first African-American ... have the lead role ... motion picture, ...ouzou in 1934.

Worked for: Deuxième ...u and the Free French Forces

The Deuxième Bureau was the French intelligence service before Germany invaded Paris in 1940. After the Nazis dissolved it, Baker covertly joined Charles de Gaulle's resistance movement to oppose the occupation.

Greatest success: Intelligence

Though Baker once piloted a plane taking Red Cross supplies to Belgium, her continued efforts to gather intel and smuggle it abroad where it could be transmitted to Allied forces were her greatest accomplishments.

While dancing as a showgirl in Paris, Josephine Baker passed secrets to the French Resistance

Despite winning medals for his wartime heroics, his communist sympathies almost saw Hayden blacklisted during the Red Scare

004 JOSEPHINE BAKER

American, 1906 1975

Known as the 'Bronze Venus,' Josephine Baker was an African-American singer, dancer and movie star who found fame in France in the Thirties. When the Germans invaded, the showgirl used her position as a sought-after celebrity to gather information for the French Resistance.

Baker was recruited by the French when they declared war on Germany in 1939. A popular socialite, Baker was invited to many embassy parties. She rubbed shoulders with high-ranking Japanese officials and Italian bureaucrats and collected information on German troop positions.

When the Nazis invaded Paris the following year, Baker went to her house in the South of France. However, she did not give up her cause and she had many friends of Charles de Gaulle's Free French Forces, commonly referred to as the French Resistance. As an entertainer, Baker was able to move around more freely than others. When visiting neutral nations, including Portugal and some in South America, she smuggled out information about airfields, harbours and German troop sizes in West France written in invisible ink on her sheet music.

In 1941, she moved to Morocco, a French colony at the time, to recover from pneumonia. However, she continued her work for the Resistance, touring Spain and pinning notes on the information she gathered inside her underwear, relying on her celebrity to ensure she wouldn't be strip-searched.

"She continued her work for the Resistance ...pinning notes on the information she gathered inside her underwear"

003 STERLING HAYDEN

American, 1916 1986

Famous for his roles in *The Godfather*, *Dr Strangelove* and *The Asphalt Jungle*, Hollywood star Sterling Hayden often played the hero, but during World War II he lived the part, sailing supplies to resistance fighters through enemy-infested waters and parachuting into Fascist Croatia.

After starring in two minor movies, Hayden left Hollywood in 1941 to become a US Marine. After graduating as an officer, he was transferred to what would soon become the Office of Strategic Service. A gifted sailor having dropped out of school aged 16 to work on a schooner, he commanded his own ship aged 22. Hayden's first mission as an OSS agent was to sail from Italy to Yugoslavia and deliver much-needed supplies to Marshal Tito's Partisans. He also participated in the Naples-Foggia campaign in 1943 and established aircrew rescue teams in enemy-occupied territory. For his bravery, he won a Silver Star and a Bronze Arrowhead for his parachute jump in 1945.

Hayden's wartime experiences meant we almost never saw him on the silver screen at all. Impressed by the communist Partisans he fought alongside during the war, Hayden joined the American Communist Party when he returned home. But with the Nazis defeated, the uneasy alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union was turning into the rivalry of the Cold War.

In 1951, only six years after receiving a medal for serving his country, Hayden found himself pulled up in front of Joseph McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee. Threatened with being blacklisted from Hollywood, Hayden was forced to give up the names of other Communist Party members. He wrote in his autobiography: "I don't think you have the foggiest notion of the contempt I have had for myself since the day I did that thing."

Other profession: Actor

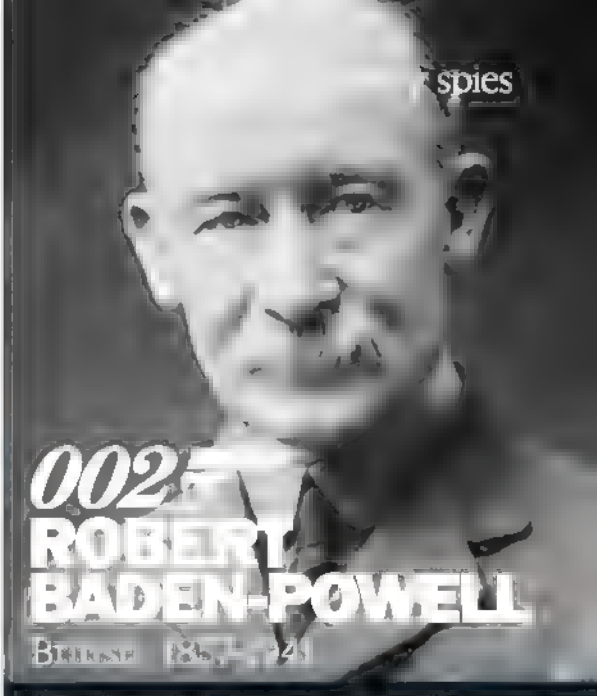
A star of Westerns and noir detectives movies in the Fifties, such as *Johnny Guitar* and *The Asphalt Jungle*, he later played characters in cinema classics *The Godfather* and *Dr Strangelove*.

Worked for: OSS

Hayden was recruited by New York lawyer William J. Donovan's Office of the Coordinator of Information, but by 1942 this had been streamlined into the OSS.

Greatest success: Naples-Foggia

While Hayden only played a small part in a large operation, the capture of Foggia airfields put Allied bombers within striking distance of Germany, Austria and the Romanian oil fields they relied on.



Robert Baden-Powell is known as the founding father of the Boy Scout Movement and as the war hero that won the Siege of Mafeking. However, few today remember that his background was in reconnaissance. On the battlefield this meant creeping behind enemy lines to discern strategic information but Baden-Powell was not above spying on other nations in peacetime.

In the 1880s, while officially the Military Secretary to the Governor of Malta, he also worked as an intelligence officer. Responsible for mapping military installations across the region, he disguised himself as a butterfly collector. Chasing insects with a net and sketching nature scenes, locals ignored him assuming he was, in his own words, "An exceedingly stupid Englishman." When suspicious officials demanded to see his pad, they only found pictures of butterflies. However, incorporated into wing decorations were plans of their own fort.

After three years Baden-Powell returned to regular military service and went onto have the illustrious career he is better known for. But his victory at Mafeking arguably owed more to his spycraft than military experience. Surrounded by 8,000 Boer troops with only 500 poorly armed men of his own, he held the enemy at bay for 217 days through cunning trickery. He made his troops plant fake land mines and pretend to avoid imaginary barbed wire between trenches to discourage the Boer forces from invading.

Other profession: Chief Scout

Discovering his books on scouting were popular with children, Baden-Powell held a youth camp on Brownsea Island, off the English coast, in 1907. An international movement was born.

Worked for: Directorate of Military Intelligence

A department of the British War Office, the DMI was a missing link between the early days of battle reconnaissance and the modern-day intelligence gathering of MI6.

Greatest success: Siege of Mafeking

Surrounded by 8,000 Boer troops with only 500 poorly armed men of his own, Baden-Powell held the enemy at bay for 217 days.

007 MOE BERG

American, 1902-1972

"If the scientist gave any indication that the Nazis were nuclear ready, Berg was instructed to shoot him"

Known as "the brainiest guy in baseball," American catcher and coach Moe Berg proved himself even smarter than sports fans may have realised during World War II. Working for the precursor to the CIA, Berg met with Balkan resistance fighters, recruited physicists to the Manhattan Project and deduced the Nazis were years away from creating a nuclear bomb.

In the Twenties, Berg played for the Boston Red Sox and Brooklyn Dodgers. Unlike many of his teammates, he was an educated Princeton graduate and spoke six languages, including fluent German, Japanese and Italian. Over three years during the offseason, he also earned a law degree from Columbia University in 1928.

Physically fit and extraordinarily intelligent, Berg was a perfect spy, so in 1943 was recruited to the Office of Strategic Services as a paramilitary officer. An early mission included parachuting into Yugoslavia to meet with Partisan leader Marshal Tito himself and evaluate whether the US should supply him with aid.

Later that year, Berg attracted the attention of General Leslie Groves, the head of the Manhattan Project, which was looking to develop and build an atomic bomb. Berg was sent to Italy to use his language skills and charm to recruit physicists for the US.

In his final mission for the OSS in December 1944, Berg was sent to Switzerland. The Nobel Prize-winning German physicist Werner Heisenberg was there giving a lecture. If the scientist gave any indication that the Nazis were nuclear ready, Berg was instructed to shoot him – in the middle of the lecture hall if necessary. Berg correctly ascertained that Nazis were at least a decade away from producing a nuke and spared Heisenberg's life. After WWII he was hired by the CIA in 1952 to use his contacts to gather information on the Soviets but his greatest spying work was behind him.

Other profession: Baseball catcher and coach

Berg was an MLB player from 1923 to 1939. However, despite his intelligence and accomplishments as a spy, Berg was considered a mediocre player, usually used as a backup catcher.

Worked for: OSS

The precursor to the CIA, Berg had many daring missions for the Office of Strategic Services from 1943 to 1945. Prior to 1943, Berg worked for Nelson Rockefeller's OIAA in South America.

Greatest success: Project AZUSA

After interviewing several physicists across Europe in 1943, Berg correctly judged that the Nazis were not close to producing a nuclear bomb and chose not to assassinate Heisenberg.

Moe Berg's baseball card is now on display in the CIA headquarters

Moe's missions

1934 – Tokyo Reconnaissance
Touring Japan as part of a US All Star team, Berg sneaks onto the rooftop of one of Tokyo's highest buildings and films the harbour with a 16mm film camera. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he screens his movie to military officials. This helps plan the Doolittle Raid, an aerial assault on the Japanese capital.
29 November 1934

1943 – Talks with Tito
He parachutes into Yugoslavia to evaluate which is the strongest resistance group fighting against the Nazis. Meeting with faction leaders, Berg determines the US should provide aid to Tito's Partisan as they have the strongest and best-supported group.
August 1943

1943 – Project Larson
He interviews top Italian physicists to see if they know anything about a German nuclear-bomb program. Berg is told to find out which German and Italian physicists are alive, where they are located, what they are working on, and if there are any large industrial complexes being built.
Late 1943

1944 – Rockefeller recruitment
Berg, who speaks many languages, travels across Europe interviewing physicists in different countries to successfully convince several scientists to work in the United States.
May 1944

1944 – Licence to kill
If he thinks the Germans are nuclear capable, Berg has instructions to assassinate brilliant physicist Werner Heisenberg while in Zurich, Switzerland, giving a lecture. Berg attends the talk and manages to meet the scientist afterward. He correctly ascertains the Germans are not ready to produce an atomic bomb and lets Heisenberg's live.
December 1944

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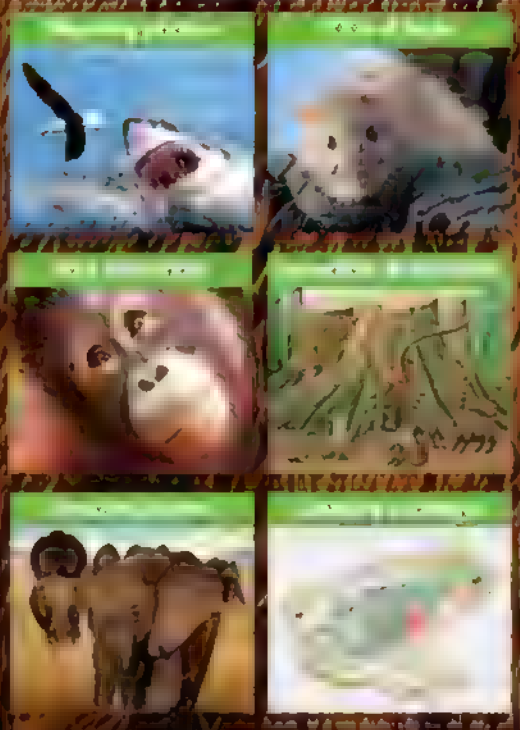

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THE HUNT FOR Jack the Ripper

History's most infamous serial killer stalks the streets and the police hunt for him grows more desperate with every gruesome murder

Written by Robin Brown

August 31st 1888. The East End of London is not unaccustomed to violence or murders, but on Buck's Row lies a body that has been mutilated beyond even Whitechapel's reputation for depravity. Her throat cut and abdomen gashed, Mary Ann Nichols, known to friends as Polly, has become the first unwitting victim of the modern era's most notorious serial killer.

Polly Nichols is widely considered the Ripper's first victim and shares a similar profile to most of his later victims. Estranged from her husband and children, Nichols has worked the dark and narrow streets of Whitechapel for most of the decade. Known for her love of drink and with a turbulent personal history behind her, Polly has been in and out of London's workhouses, where the destitute are offered food and shelter in return for unskilled work, for over five years, ever since her husband ceased maintenance payments on the grounds that his wife has been working as a prostitute.

Despite finding a job working as a domestic servant during the spring of 1888, Nichols resumes her itinerant lifestyle and lives in a series of workhouses and lodging houses over the summer. On 31 August 1888, Polly has made her daily lodgings money three times over but has drunk away most of her profits, so she must go out to work again if she is to have a roof over her head for the night. She is last seen in The Frying Pan public house before heading out into the night again – minutes later her body is discovered on Buck's Row. Her throat has been cut and her abdomen slashed open. It will later be discovered in the mortuary that Polly Nichols' body has been viscerated too.

Even before the Ripper's reign of terror, the East

LONDON 1888

London was booming in 1888, swollen by the Industrial Revolution and Britain's place as the heart of an empire on which the Sun never set. The capital was a vast financial and mercantile centre – the promise of work attracting migrants from all over the world. Yet frequently those with few skills or prospects found only grinding poverty and the harsh reality of life in the slums of the East End.

These people were packed together in numbers and population density inconceivable today, particularly in the notorious Whitechapel, where 90,000 lived together in lodging houses filled with up to 80 people each: Ashkenazi Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe mixed with Irish escaping the potato famine. Some found employment in the slaughterhouses that peppered the area, but for many women the only assets they had to sell were their own bodies – turning them to drink in the gin houses to escape the bleakness of their situation.

Doss houses were frequently the only lodgings many could find, with 20 people packed tightly into rooms. Conditions were appalling, particularly in hot summers. In colder months the smoke from London's chimneys would combine with fog from the Thames to create notorious peasoupers – thick, noxious smog that would mask the weak light of the cobbled streets' gaslights. The East End of London became a breeding ground for squalor, racism, violence, alcoholism and prostitution – a heady mix that birthed history's most notorious serial killer.

End was a hotbed of violence, particularly toward women. While the police will later exclude them from the so-called canonical murders – the five murders considered to be have been perpetrated by the Ripper – two women working as prostitutes have already been killed in 1888. Emma Smith and Martha Tabram were both violently murdered and mutilated that year, but with such events relatively commonplace there is little concern among the capital's police force. This will soon change.

A burly, mustachioed man, Frederick Abberline knows the streets of Whitechapel well, having worked in the Metropolitan Police force's H Division as a local inspector for almost ten years before receiving a promotion to inspector first-class at Scotland Yard in February 1888. With the resources of H Division seen as stretched and the seriousness of the Nichols murder recognised at the highest levels, Abberline is seconded back to Whitechapel to oversee the investigation into the murders due to his excellent knowledge of the area's geography, criminals and way of life. While he reminds one colleague of a bank manager or solicitor, nobody doubts Abberline's suitability for the job – he is considered fair and meticulous. With increasing numbers of detectives and divisions involved in investigating the murders, Abberline becomes the most-recognised policeman connected to the Ripper murders, conducting interviews, viewing identity parades and hearing testimonies first-hand. Many high-ranking officials from Scotland Yard would compile their own theories based on Abberline's reports.

However, the police have a difficult task on their hands. The victims' profession is an unwitting assistance to the Ripper. They lead him to the shadows, where they are unlikely to be disturbed: the perfect way to commit murder in the crowded Whitechapel. With an estimated 90,000 people crammed into little more than 2.6 square kilometres (1.5 square miles) – and an estimated 1,200 women working as prostitutes at any one time – policing Whitechapel is a near-impossible job. This is made even harder by

The police discover one of Jack the Ripper's victims

"Even before the Ripper's reign of terror, the East End was a hotbed of violence, particularly toward women"

Victorian methods of policing, which dictate that beat constables must check in on their rounds on time or face their pay being docked, a quixotic rule that leads to some constables turning a blind eye to crime in order to check in on time. By 19 September, Abberline is forced to conclude that, "not the slightest clue can at present be obtained", as to Nichols' killer.

Just a week after the murder of Nichols, the Ripper strikes again. On 8 September 1888, the body of Annie Chapman is discovered in the yard of 29 Hanbury Street. Her throat has been cut, but the mutilations are even more horrific. Chapman's body has been disembowelled and the intestines strung over her shoulder; part of Chapman's womb has been removed. Alongside Chapman's meagre possessions there is a leather apron found nearby.

Newspapers quickly latch on to the two murders - many of the so-called penny dreadfuls would publish two editions a day, distributed on the streets by young boys crying 'ghastly murder!' - and the leather apron is seen as vital evidence by the press. A man colloquially known as 'Leather Apron,' John Pizer, is reported to have been seen with Chapman shortly before her murder. Pizer had previously attacked a man with a knife and sexually assaulted a prostitute the previous summer, which doesn't help his cause. Just as importantly - given the rampant suspicion of Jews in the East End – Pizer is Jewish, spurring the press on to hysterical anti-Semitism.

The East London Observer describes Pizer as having a face "not altogether pleasant to look upon, by reason of the grizzly black strips of hair" and possessing "thin lips" with "a cruel sardonic kind of look". However, Pizer is quickly discounted as a suspect when it is discovered he has an alibi for both murders.

Over the course of the investigation, more than 2,000 people are interviewed in connection to the murders, with a focus on slaughtermen, butchers and those in the medical profession, due to the initial belief that the murderer must have some anatomical knowledge. With thousands of accusations every week, Abberline and H Division is stretched to breaking point. Public dissatisfaction with the investigation leads to the formation of a vigilante group, The Whitechapel Vigilance Committee. Frustrated with the police's performance, the committee starts its own patrols, paying men a small wage to patrol the streets from midnight to the early hours of the morning.

Without some of the most basic forensic science that crime-fighters will take for granted in the 20th century – fingerprinting is yet to be introduced and photography is limited by the cumbersome, expensive nature of the equipment – Abberline struggles to make any headway. The policeman would walk the streets until the early hours searching for clues and would often give unfortunates fourpence for a night's doss to get them off the streets. At one point H Division has 1,600 reports to wade through and the strain on Abberline nearly breaks him.

The police are deluged with letters - most of them overwhelmingly certain fakes - and information they do not trust. However, physical profiles built from claimed witness reports, in contradiction to the romanticised image of the Ripper, suggest a white man in his twenties or thirties with a moustache and dressed shabbily or as a tradesman or sailor. A criminal profile by police surgeon Dr Thomas Bond suggests a quiet, eccentric man without anatomical knowledge and driven by sexual mania to kill: "The murderer must have been a man of physical strength and of great coolness and daring. There is no evidence that he had an accomplice. He must in my opinion be a man subject to periodical attacks of homicidal and erotic mania. The character of the mutilations indicate that the man may be in a condition sexually, that may be called satyriasis."

Jack the Ripper has become one of the world's most famous bogeymen

CSI Whitechapel

Frustrated by the lack of progress following the 'double event' murders of Liz Stride and Cathy Eddowes, the police turned to Dr Thomas Bond, a surgeon for the Metropolitan Police, to shed some light on the forensics of the crime scenes and victims.

Bond used evidence from the crime scene, such as arterial bloody spray on walls and post-mortem reports, to conclude that the murderer likely wore a cape or other clothing to hide the fact that his hands and arms would be covered in blood, writing, "parts of his clothing must certainly have been smeared with blood."

The surgeon also concluded the killer had little or no anatomical knowledge, but that the object of the murders was the mutilation of the bodies. From this theory – and the physical evidence – he deduced that the perpetrator was the same man. Bond's concluding notes form what is thought to be the first criminal profile – a physical and psychological portrait drawn from the perpetrator's crimes. He believed the Ripper was possessed of "physical strength and of great coolness and daring", but prone to violent and sexual instincts.

Bond believed the Ripper to be a "quiet, inoffensive looking man" in middle age and neatly dressed. The surgeon added the murderer would also be solitary and eccentric with a small income. An FBI report, written in 1988, came to many of the same conclusions as Bond's original profile.

Jack's victims?

Martha Tabram

Separated from her husband and with a reputation for excessive drinking, Martha Tabram was destitute by August 1888 and making a living from prostitution. Her body was discovered with 39 stab wounds but she had not been further mutilated. Tabram is not generally considered an official 'canonical' victim of the Ripper.

Polly Nichols

Estranged from her husband and children, Polly Nichols had been in and out of workhouses for over five years by the time of her death. She had earned enough money for a bed on the night of her murder but spent the money on alcohol, forcing her back onto the streets.

Annie Chapman

Known as Dark Annie due to either her hair or her black moods, 47-year-old Chapman had fallen on hard times following the death of her husband, birth of a handicapped child and the death of another. Although she had previously sold flowers and relied on an allowance from her husband, his death forced her into prostitution to support herself financially.

Liz Stride

Known as Long Liz, possibly due to her surname or appearance, Stride was a Swedish immigrant given to flights of fancy and worked as a prostitute on the streets of Whitechapel. Some Ripperologists question whether Stride was a Ripper victim as her body was not mutilated; others suggest that the killer was interrupted.

Cathy Eddowes

The second victim in the so-called 'double event' on 30 September, the 46-year-old Eddowes was known as an intelligent, striking and jolly woman who had moved to London from Wolverhampton. There's some doubt as to whether Eddowes worked as a prostitute, though she was seen talking to a stranger minutes before her death.

Mary Jane Kelly

The last of the canonical murders, Kelly did not quite fit the established profile. While working as a prostitute, Kelly had her own lodgings and, at 25, was much younger than the other victims. Her murder was by far the most brutal, resulting in her body being removed not by stretcher, but in eight buckets.

Map of East London
4
4. Berner Street
30 September 1888
Liz Stride is discovered with her throat cut on Sunday 30 September. The lack of mutilation has led to doubts whether Stride should be considered a canonical victim.
St Paul's
1. George Yard
7 September 1888
Martha Tabram was killed on 7 August 1888, suffering 39 stab wounds. The savagery of the murder, location and date led police to link Tabram's murder with the Ripper murders.
1
2. Buck's Row
31 August 1888
Polly Nichols is slashed across the throat and mutilated on 31 August. She is officially considered the first victim of Jack the Ripper.
2
6. Dorset Street
9 November 1888
Mary Jane Kelly's body is found eviscerated and mutilated beyond recognition in her single-room flat at 13 Miller's Court off Dorset Street.
6

Victorians make much of sexual dysfunction and many who end up in lunatic asylums are committed there for activities that would not raise an eyebrow today. Nevertheless, while Ripper victims show no signs of sexual assault, most believe that there is a sexual element to the murders, given the way the corpses are posed and the genital mutilations that most display. Abberline is suspicious of Jacob Isenschmid and at one point declares him to be the most likely suspect, not a great leap, as he is given to bouts of insanity and is known as the 'Mad Pork Butcher.' He is arrested on 12 September and subsequently committed to the Bow, an infirmary asylum. Several weeks pass following Chapman's death and the hysteria following her death begins to die down. The East End allows itself to hope that the worst has passed before it is struck with a horrific double killing in the early hours of 30 September.

Like Nichols and Chapman, Liz Stride – known as Long Liz to friends – has worked as a prostitute but had previously run a coffee house with her husband, who had died in 1884. At that time, Stride is working as a charlady and making some money sewing, while occasionally receiving money from her on-off partner, Michael Kidney. Days before her murder, Dr Thomas Barnardo, who had opened one of his first charity homes to care for vulnerable children in 1870, claims to have seen Stride in a lodging house in Whitechapel among a group of women who opine that they might soon be murdered by the Ripper

Stride is found with her throat cut in Berner Street on 30 September. Of the canonical five, Stride's murder is considered the most dubious due to the lack of trademark mutilations, leading to speculation that the murderer is interrupted shortly after killing Stride, or even that her murder

LONDON
3
3. HANBURY STREET
8 September 1888
Annie Chapman is discovered on Saturday 8 September 1888, with her throat cut and internal organs partially removed. She is considered the second official Ripper victim.
WHITECHAPEL ROAD
LIMEHOUSE
5. MITRE SQUARE
30 September 1888
Less than an hour after Stride's body is discovered, Cathy Eddowes is found disembowelled and with her throat cut open.
COMMERCIAL ROAD
N
S
5
THE THAMES

is committed by someone other than the Ripper, perhaps a would-be copycat. This theory is given further credence when the body of Cathy Eddowes is discovered in Mitre Square 45 minutes later.

The killing of Stride is significant in that it features one of the most convincing eyewitness description, given by a man named Israel Schwartz. His account suggests that he saw the Ripper attack Stride before becoming aware that he was observed, shouting "Lipski!" before Schwartz escapes. The police suggest the colloquial term, used to refer to Jews at this time, is essayed to an accomplice standing nearby, who makes it towards Schwartz himself. This theory leads the police to initially conclude that their suspects are Jewish. However, Abberline is of the opinion that the term is aimed in a derogatory manner at Schwartz himself, given his Yiddish features. Such is Abberline's standing in the investigation that this take on the account is adopted without question, discounting the popular theory that the Ripper was Jewish and working with Jewish accomplices.

Eddowes is not known to work routinely as a prostitute and is in a relationship at the time of her death. She is given to heavy drinking, however, and on the night of her death is taken to Bishopsgate Police Station and locked in a cell until sober. At around 1am, she is released and turns to walk in the opposite direction to her lodging house – in less than an hour she will be dead. Unlike Stride, Eddowes' body has been horrifically mutilated. Having cut her throat, the killer also disembowels his unfortunate victim, removing part of her kidneys and uterus. The corpse's eyes have also been removed, as well as the tip of her nose and an earlobe.

The removal of the kidney is significant. Scotland Yard and H Division are deluged with thousands of letters a week from the public, pointing the finger at possible suspects. What's more, the press claim that a number of letters, purporting to be from the Ripper, have been sent to their offices. Of these letters, only one is believed to be potentially genuine. Sent to George Lusk, head of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee, two weeks later, it contains a piece of kidney that is purportedly from Eddowes' body. The letter is thought to be significant as the kidney is reported to show signs of Bright's Disease, which Eddowes is known to have suffered from. The writer of the letter – marked as being written 'From Hell' – claims to have eaten the missing kidney half and threatens to send Lusk the bloody knife used in the murder.

Of the many letters received by police, only two others are given any credence. The first is sent to the *Central News Agency* on 25 September and begins with 'Dear Boss' and is signed 'Jack The Ripper,' the first use of this moniker. It goes on to threaten to send the police the ears of the next victim, but while Eddowes' ear has been cut, the pathologist suggests that this was coincidental to the Ripper slashing her throat.

The next, received on 1 October, is signed 'Saucy Jacky' and references the 'double event' of the murders of Stride and Eddowes. Although initially given credence due to the apparent foretelling of the murders, the postcard is actually postmarked after the event. Both are widely thought to be hoaxes written after the event, with police even suspecting unscrupulous journalists keen to keep the story alive. The police put constables into plain clothes to blend in with Whitechapel's locals and copies of the letters purporting to be from the Ripper are posted throughout the area in the vain hope that someone will recognise the handwriting in them.

However, Abberline has another problem – the climate of fear and hysteria breeds xenophobia, which finds an outlet in persecution of the local Jewish population. Near to where Eddowes was found is a message scrawled on a wall, implying Jews are responsible for the murders. Five weeks pass without another murder, with an increased police presence and public vigilance at a high on the streets of Whitechapel.

Mary Jane Kelly, unlike the other murder victims who were all in their forties, is 25 years old and rents a private room. She works as a prostitute

"The writer of the letter – marked as being written 'From Hell' – claims to have eaten the missing kidney half"

Suspects

Francis Tumblety

Profession: Herbalist, con man

Was he the Ripper?

An American quack doctor, Tumblety supposedly owned sets of reproductive organs in jars and was thought to be flamboyant – and thus homosexual. While such scant evidence was sufficient for Ripper accusations in the 19th century, Tumblety's extreme misogyny and criminal behaviour led to one investigating officer naming him as his favoured suspect, while a forensic analyst deemed his handwriting bore a similarity to the Ripper letters.

Sir William Gull

Profession: Doctor, Queen's physician

Was he the Ripper?

Alan Moore's seminal graphic novel *From Hell* suggests that Gull was the Ripper, wiping out a group of women who learned of an illegitimate Catholic heir to the throne fathered by Prince Albert Victor. The Queen's surgeon, most famously played by Ian Holm in a film adaptation, is portrayed either as a diligent professional, thoroughly insane or acting as an agent of higher powers, both corporeal and divine. None are taken seriously.

Walter Sickert

Profession: Artist

Was he the Ripper?

Famed for his avant-garde paintings, Sickert was open about his interest in Ripperology. After his death, Sickert was accused of being an accomplice – or even committing the murders himself – in various books, including one by crime novelist Patricia Cornwell, who claims to have matched Sickert's DNA to one of the Ripper letters. The theory is widely dismissed.

> "The mutilation is so extensive that Dr Bond believes the murderer would have been at work for at least two hours"

and has a fondness for drink, having ended up in London by way of Ireland and Wales, according to various reports. On the morning of 9 November, Kelly's landlord dispatches a lackey to collect the six weeks of rent she owes. He finds only Kelly's body, horribly eviscerated beyond recognition in her flat. Over the fire is a kettle, the solder on which has melted. Abberline surmises that the killer burned Kelly's clothes – which are missing – to provide light in which to carry out his macabre work. The mutilation is so extensive that Dr Bond believes the murderer would have been at work for at least two hours. Kelly's organs have been removed from her chest and abdominal cavities, her face destroyed and heart missing.

The brutality of the killing reignites fear across Whitechapel, so Scotland Yard announces a pardon for anyone with information leading to the arrest of the Ripper. However, at the height of his notoriety, the Ripper disappears. Just as quickly as his reign of terror on the East End began, it ends. While there are superficially similar murders in 1889 and 1891, it is not believed the same man committed them. The investigation slowly winds down but the Ripper lives on in the public's consciousness. The Whitechapel murders have also galvanised politicians into acting to improve the parlous state of the East End's slums, many of which are cleared over the following decades. Abberline moves back to Scotland Yard, receives a promotion to the rank of chief inspector and retires in 1892.

While opinion of the identity of the Ripper may be divided, most experts believe that only incarceration, removal from Whitechapel or death would have prevented the Ripper from killing again, having been forced to kill from some sort of compulsion he would have been unable to resist had he remained in the area and at liberty. In 1894 Metropolitan Police Chief Constable Melville Macnaghten publishes a report that names three suspects – John Druitt, Aaron Kosminski and Michael Ostrog – as three likely candidates. However, factual inaccuracies blight the report, while Ostrog was likely imprisoned in France at the time of the murders. Macnaghten's report is indicative of the lack of sound factual bases behind many Ripper accusations.

As for the man in charge of the investigation at the time, Abberline's favoured candidate was Seweryn Antonowicz Kłosowski, also known as George Chapman, a Polish immigrant hanged in 1903 for murdering three of his mistresses. Chapman worked as butcher, was known to be paranoid and to carry a knife, lived near the location of the first murder, matched physical profiles from witness statements and hated women. "I cannot help feeling that this is the man we struggled so hard to capture fifteen years ago," said the Ripper hunter in an interview conducted in 1903 with the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

Abberline pointed out that the date of Chapman's arrival in England coincided with the beginning of the series of murders in Whitechapel and that the Ripper murders ceased when he left for the USA, where Chapman was later tried and hanged for the murder of his mistresses. Chapman had also studied medicine and surgery in Russia – leading Abberline to state that some of the Ripper murders constituted the work of an expert surgeon. The inspector also recalled a story in which a wealthy American gentleman had offered to pay a sub-curator at a pathology museum for organs – perhaps connecting this anecdote with evidence that the Ripper had removed several organs from his victims. "It seems beyond belief that such inhuman wickedness could enter into the mind of any man," said Abberline of his theory. However, the retired policeman admitted that 15 years later, Scotland Yard was none the wiser as to the Ripper's identity. The same can be said over 125 years later; Jack the Ripper is an enduring mystery whose identity seems destined never to be revealed.

An illustration depicting Jack the Ripper attacking one of his victims

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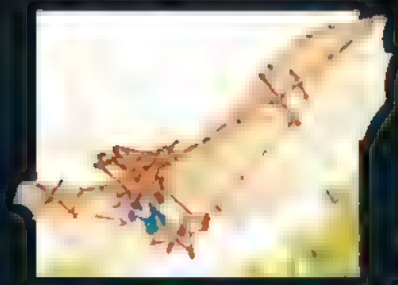

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KAMIKAZE

In the final months of World War II Japan fought as it had never done before desperately sacrificing pilots and planes in suicidal Kamikaze attacks

Written by James Boast

Aged 17 he decided he was ready to die Nothing marked him out as anything other than another navy pilot in his baggy fatigues, or differentiated his comrades lined up beside him. Not even his youth or inexperience seemed remarkable. This late in the war, the motherland needed all she could get, and more capable pilots were entrusted with more complex duties. All he had was his courage and unswerving dedication, and no price seemed too high if it would bring victory

Solemnly and carefully, he wrapped a white hachimaki headband around his temples with two simple characters emblazoned on them: Kamikaze. It was only a small thing, but suddenly he became a breed apart from the oil-streaked ground crews who looked on at the side of the airfield. He took a bowl of throat-scouring Sake and shook the hand of the officer who offered it, nostrils suddenly burning as the alcohol coursed through his veins.

Barely out of flight training, he was about take to the skies above Okinawa and turn his fighter plane into a burning, shrieking agent of death. His hands choking the throttle, he would fly through the glittering chain of machine gun fire and drive his plane between the ribs of an enemy aircraft carrier like an aluminium lance. If he was lucky hundreds would die – roasted alive as aviation fuel turned the deck into a flaming inferno. If he was lucky he would hit ammunition stores or idle planes on the ship's runway – his fireball igniting a bigger inferno still. If he was lucky he would sink an enemy vessel outright. Regardless of whether he was lucky or not he was sure that he would make his parents proud and he would honour his emperor. Sitting in his cockpit, waiting to take off he realised that, through Sake-stung lips, he was smiling. He was about to do his duty

After eight years of bloody expansion, Imperial Japan's brutal war machine was in retreat. The surprise 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor had been quickly followed by a number of victories. The US had been driven from the Philippines, vowing vengeance, while the glittering jewels in Britain's imperial crown, Singapore and Hong Kong, had fallen

outright. Japan had been poised to overrun India, Britain's most valuable colony, and was coming within striking distance of Australia – the seemingly vulnerable base camp for the US war in the Pacific. Then the Japanese had been battered by the US fleet at the Battle of Midway in June 1944 and humbled by the fall of the Pacific island of Saipan a month later. These defeats made the Japanese high command painfully aware of how overstretched its forces and supply lines were. Staring down the vengeful might of the United States, the world's number-one industrial powerhouse, was a very different scenario to rolling over a China blighted by civil war, or overrunning the poorly run and undermanned European colonies of Southeast Asia.

Meaning 'divine wind', the Kamikaze was a typhoon that had driven back the boats of Mongol invaders in 1274 and 1281, and now, 663 years later, another storm was needed to protect Japan's shores. This storm they would call down themselves. The project officially began in October 1944 – alongside the 'Thunder Gods', who flew devastating rocket-powered bombs – but the roots were much older. The steady transformation of Japan from a feudal backwater to industrialised democracy and then to authoritarian militarism had created a climate where the Kamikaze world-view would thrive. Perversions of the ancient Samurai code, the Bushido, and of the state religion, Shinto, had been repackaged with imperial ambitions, racist ideology and unflinching obedience to the god-emperor Hirohito, and force-fed to generations of eager recruits.

Japanese servicemen had already vowed to give their lives to defend their emperor. Their duty was beaten into them by a harsh training regime that relied on bamboo canes over words, while their harsh brand of nationalism allowed no room for surrender. It took few orders from above to put this horrific new phase of the war into motion.

Japanese Imperial Navy crews wait as an Ohka Kamikaze glider is strapped to the underside of their bomber

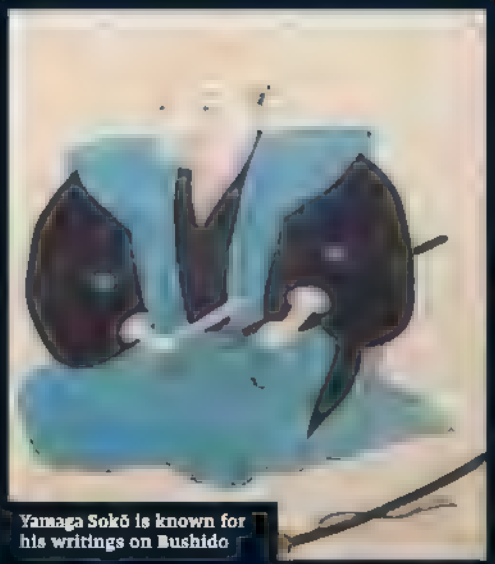
KAMIKAZE'S BUSHIDO ORIGINS

Yamaga Sokō's writings on Bushido were a heavy influence on the Kamikaze ideology

The traditional code of Samurai chivalry, the Bushido ('Way of the Warrior') had been incorporated into the larger tapestry of Japanese militarism with brutal and horrifying results. Emphasising self-sacrifice, total obedience to the emperor and an utter contempt for defeat and surrender, Bushido expected victory or death trying to achieve it.

Armed with explosives and aircraft instead of swords and horses, Kamikaze seemed the natural response for many who felt they were now being called upon to defend their emperor and homeland like the noble samurai of old. "What greater glory can there be for a warrior than to give his life for Emperor and country?" asked Admiral Takijirō Ōnishi, the 'Father of Kamikaze.'

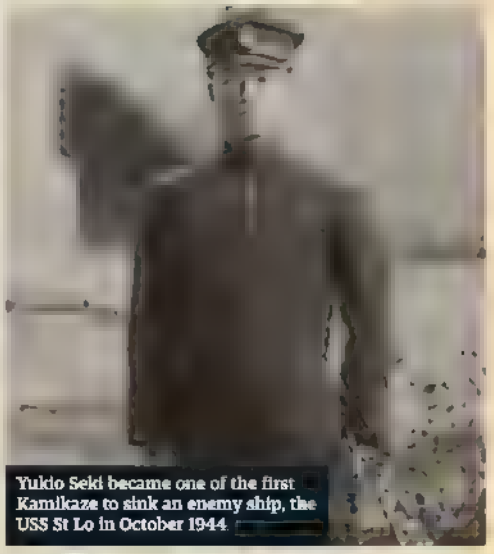
But this reading of Bushido was perhaps more of a romantic fiction than historical fact, based heavily on the 17th-century writings of Yamamoto Tsunetomo, a samurai who stressed unquestioning loyalty, and Yamaga Sokō, a ronin who earned the Shogun's ire and faced exile by placing ultimate authority back in the divine emperor who had been increasingly reduced to figurehead status. Although neither Yamamoto's *Hagakure* nor Yamaga's essays were widely studied within their authors' lifetimes, as their rigid codes were at odds with the reality of a samurai caste which had come to dominate Japan as administrators and civil servants rather than warriors, the increasingly belligerent Japanese militarists in the late-19th and early-20th century increasingly made use of their take on Bushido. They used it to create a sense of continuity between their own demands for fanatical obedience and those of Japan's noble past.



Yamaga Sokō is known for his writings on Bushido

A Japanese Kamikaze pilot puts on his patriotic 'Rising Sun' bandana

The men of the first Kamikaze mission make a ceremonial toast



Yukio Seki became one of the first Kamikaze to sink an enemy ship, the USS St Lo in October 1944

"Their orders were to gun their engines and dive straight into the decks of the suddenly fragile carriers"

Japanese pilots had been voluntarily flying themselves into Allied vessels with such impressive regularity that studies were held on the effectiveness of suicide runs as a weapon, but it would take the unpalatable spectre of defeat to transform it into policy. Freshly arrived at the Philippines to take charge of its air defences in October 1944, Vice-Admiral Takijiro Onishi of the Imperial Japanese Navy had been opposed to suicide attacks when the debate had previously reared its head in the officers' mess. However, his orders to wipe out the entire US carrier fleet so the Imperial Navy could mop up the rest of the enemy forces seemed inherently impossible when the advancing ships outnumbered them by a ratio of about ten to one.

"In my opinion, there is only one way of assuring that our meagre strength will be effective to a maximum degree", he told the 201st Navy Flying Corps near Manila. "That is to organise suicide attack units composed of A6M Zero fighters armed with 250-kilogram (551-pound) bombs, with each plane to crash-dive into an enemy carrier... What do you think?" They agreed.

The 26 planes of the first Special Attack Unit - Tokubetsu Kōgekitai - were to be piloted by volunteers and Onishi briefed them himself - lying, he told them their commanding officer approved. Their orders were to gun their engines and dive straight into the decks of the suddenly fragile carriers with their bombs held tight in the plane's embrace until the absolute last second. Aiming for

Other Kamikaze Weapons

Submarines

Effectively a manned torpedo, the Kaiten ('turn toward the sky') could be launched from the deck of a cruiser or submarine where it would speed toward the enemy, its 'pilot' locked in a steering compartment. Kaiten attacks were nowhere nearly as successful as Kamikaze pilots.

Divers

The Fukuryu ('crouching dragon') were suicide frogmen who would wade out from the mainland with six hours' air and affix a 15kg (33lb) mine to the hull of moored enemy ships with a bamboo pole. Japan surrendered before the Fukuryu could be used in combat, although plenty died during training.

Speedboats

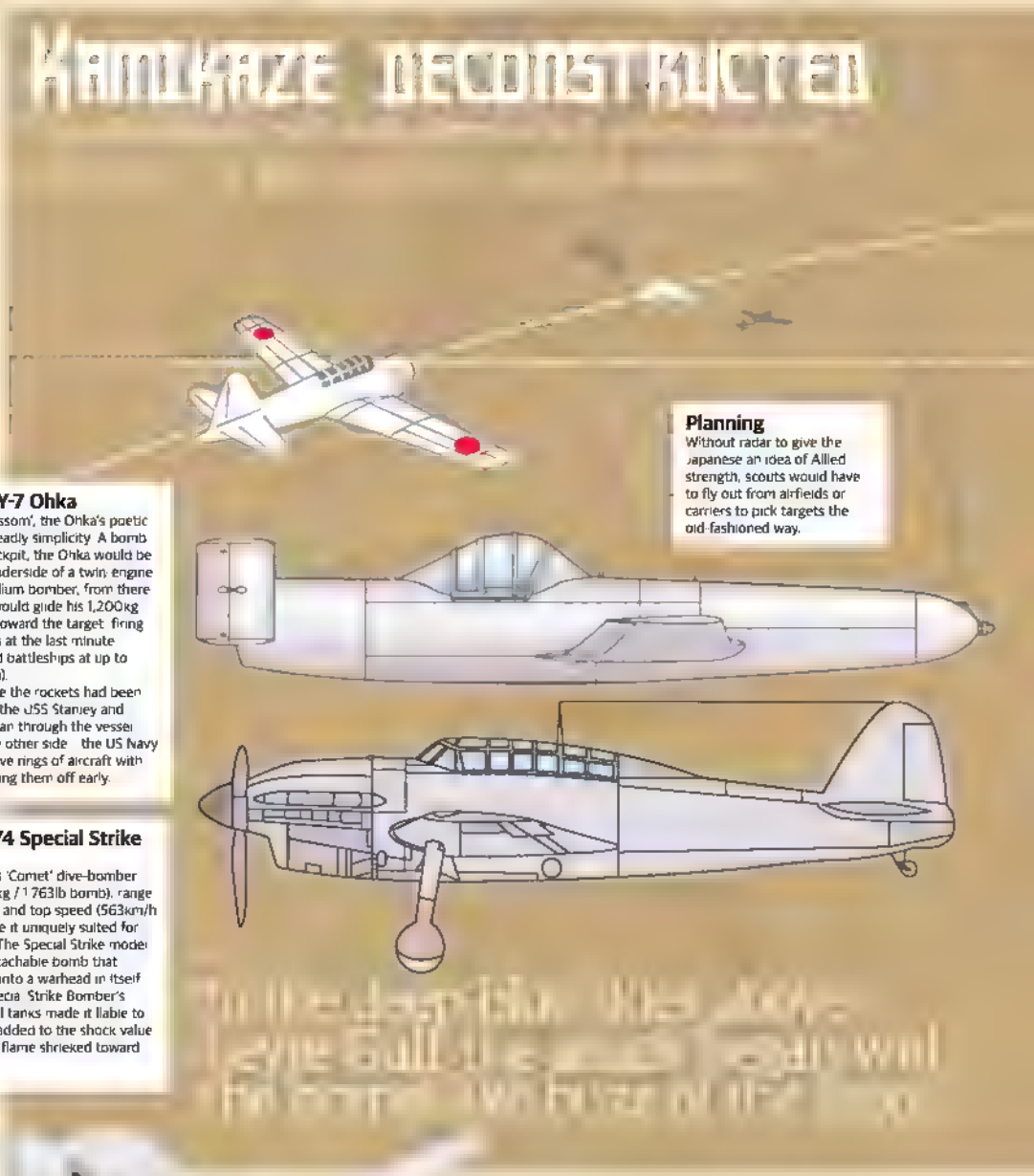
Shinyo ('suicide quake') speedboats were equipped with two rockets and 317kg (700lbs) of explosives in the nose which could be detonated manually by the driver, or simply ploughed into the side of ship. Used primarily in the Philippines Campaign (1944-1945), most were held back for the final defence of Japan.

their crowded airstrips, or between their smoke stacks where the boiler could be ruptured, a lucky - or skilled - Kamikaze could sink the mightiest warships the Allied forces could offer

Divided into four units named after the verses in an epic poem, the first Kamikaze regiment developed tactics that would become standard - after all, it was unlikely that a pilot would survive to question their effectiveness.

Flying in a group of two to six, another two to six fighter escorts would attempt to divert the enemy's fighter screen, leaving the Kamikaze unopposed in their deadly mission. Speed and pressure would lock the flight stick in place as they fell. There was literally no turning back.

Aircraft carriers had come of age in the Pacific campaign. With the fighting taking place across seemingly endless stretches of ocean or dense island jungles where airfields were few and far between, carriers became the centrepiece of the battle. Though often slow bulky and tempting targets for dive-bombers and submarines, the Battle of Midway had proved just how deadly they could be. Without radar, the first the Japanese knew of US planes streaking through the skies toward them was when they actually saw them. This visual range of three kilometres (five miles) was nothing to aircraft and the Americans had sunk four Japanese



Planning
Without radar to give the Japanese an idea of Allied strength, scouts would have to fly out from airfields or carriers to pick targets the old-fashioned way.

Yokosuka MXY-7 Ohka
Meaning 'Cherry Blossom', the Ohka's poetic moniker belied its deadly simplicity. A bomb with wings and a cockpit, the Ohka would be released from the underside of a twin-engine Mitsubishi G4M medium bomber, from there the Kamikaze pilot would glide his 1,200kg (2,645lb) explosive toward the target, firing the powerful rockets at the last minute and diving into Allied battleships at up to 1,045km/h (650mph).

Unstoppable once the rockets had been fired – one Ohka hit the USS Stanley and actually punched clean through the vessel and exploded on the other side – the US Navy increased its defensive rings of aircraft with the intention of picking them off early.

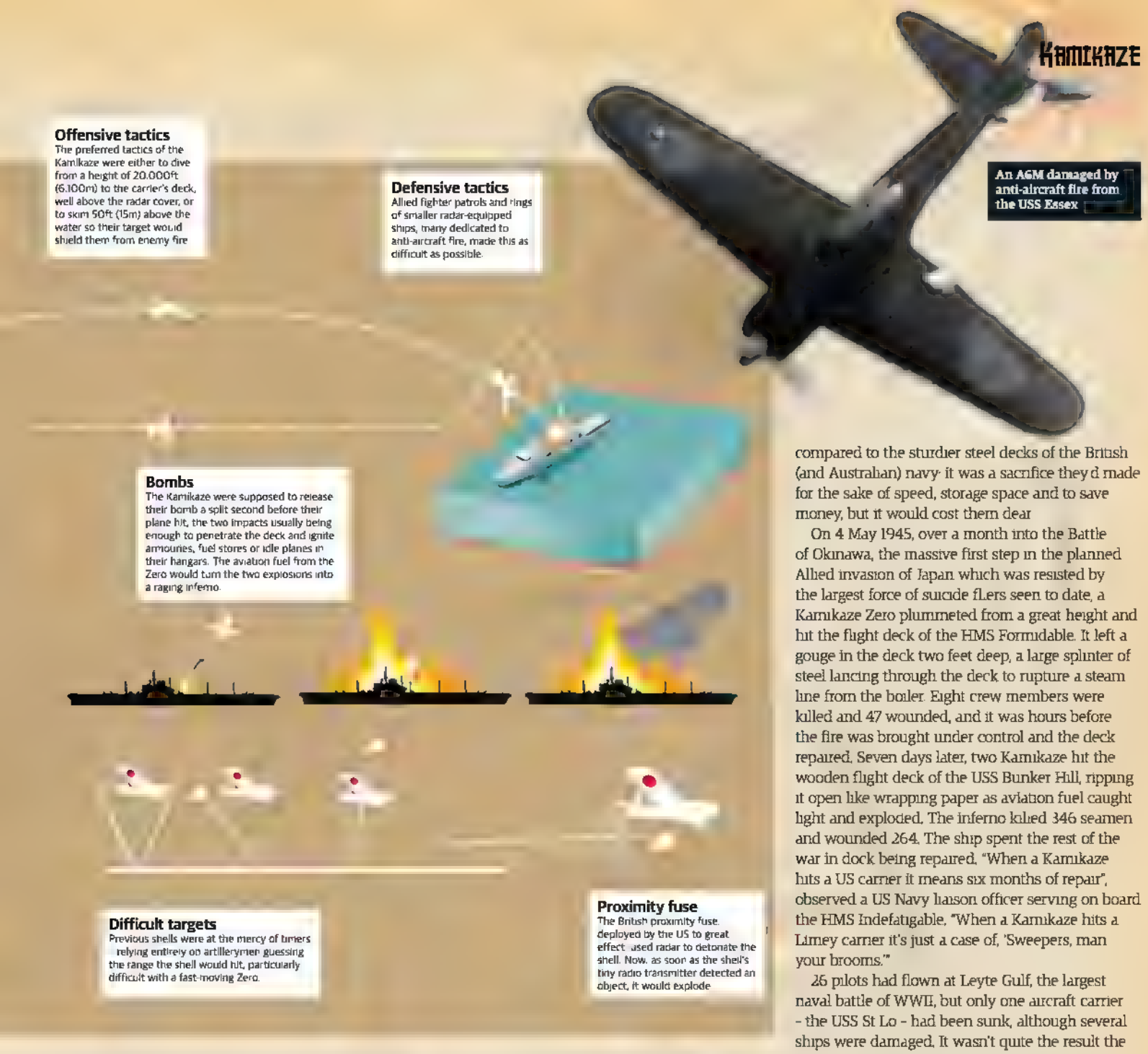
Yokosuka D4Y4 Special Strike Bomber
The Japanese Navy's 'Comet' dive-bomber had a payload (800kg / 1,763lb bomb), range (2,495km / 1,550mi) and top speed (563km/h / 350mph) that made it uniquely suited for Kamikaze missions. The Special Strike model came with a non-detachable bomb that effectively turned it into a warhead in itself. The fact that the Special Strike Bomber's poorly armoured fuel tanks made it liable to catch fire when hit added to the shock value as D4Y4's streaming flame shrieked toward their targets.

A Japanese training officer demonstrates a kamikaze attack. The pilots were trained in starting and landing flights with wooden frames and control sticks

carriers while their fighters were still refuelling on the decks. It had been a devastating loss, and there were more like it.

Kamikaze madness was in the air as a US fleet approached the Philippines. Before the first Special Attack Unit had even left the runway, a Japanese dive-bomber took the initiative and flew into the foremast of the HMAS Australia – part of the small Royal Australian Navy covering force sailing with the US fleet – on 21 October, scattering fiery debris as its petrol tanks exploded. "Just look at this," exclaimed gunnery officer Richard Peek in disbelief before 30 crewmen died; "She's aiming at us."

This wasn't the first Kamikaze attack of World War II but a bloody preamble for the suicidal desperation and chilling fanaticism that was to come. Four days later, the Battle of Leyte Gulf began and the Kamikaze made their murderous debut. This was to be the last traditional sea battle


Offensive tactics
The preferred tactics of the Kamikaze were either to dive from a height of 20,000ft (6,100m) to the carrier's deck, well above the radar cover, or to skim 50ft (15m) above the water so their target would shield them from enemy fire
Defensive tactics
Allied fighter patrols and rings of smaller radar-equipped ships, many dedicated to anti-aircraft fire, made this as difficult as possible.
An A6M damaged by anti-aircraft fire from the USS Essex
Bombs
The Kamikaze were supposed to release their bomb a split second before their plane hit, the two impacts usually being enough to penetrate the deck and ignite armouries, fuel stores or idle planes in their hangars. The aviation fuel from the Zero would turn the two explosions into a raging inferno.
Difficult targets
Previous shells were at the mercy of timers relying entirely on artillerymen guessing the range the shell would hit, particularly difficult with a fast-moving Zero.
Proximity fuse
The British proximity fuse, deployed by the US to great effect, used radar to detonate the shell. Now, as soon as the shell's tiny radio transmitter detected an object, it would explode

in history, but despite its links to a thousand-year tradition of ship-to-ship combat, it also saw one of modern warfare's deadliest innovations.

In the deep-blue skies above Leyte Gulf, the attack began with the hornet-like buzz of the Zeros suddenly introducing an element of fresh uncertainty to the chaos of war. Now they weren't just dropping bombs and spraying the decks with machine gun fire anymore – they were hurtling toward their targets like living missiles, ducking and weaving under the desperate defensive fire with an all-too human determination to kill.

"The fellows were passing ammunition like lightning as the guns were turning in all directions spitting out hot steel," remembered James J Fahey a seaman aboard the light cruiser USS Montpelier, of the bloody duel playing out around him. "The deck near my mount was covered in blood, guts, brains, tongues, scalps, hearts, arms etc from the Japanese pilots."

Despite their earlier brush with a have-a-go Kamikaze attack, the HMAS Australia's fight wasn't over either, and like the Americans, the crew found their nerves shredded by the constant bombardment. Vice-Admiral Onishi may have over-emphasised the destruction caused by his suicide fliers, but the psychological damage met his boasts. "You'd hear the eight-inch guns going so you'd say 'Hello, there's something they're after'; then you'd hear the four-inch [gun] start up," recalled seaman Reg Walker of the ranged artillery sounding out the Kamikaze's progress. "Then you'd hear the pom-poms; then you'd hear the Bofors [gun] and then the Oerlikons [gun] are the last; and... and you'd brace yourself, because you'd know you were about to be hit by another one of these, because it had got through that far."

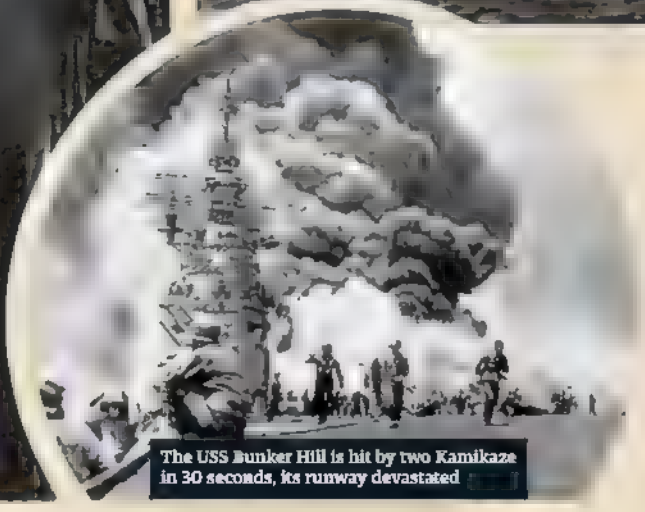
When they did get through, the consequences could be devastating. The wooden decks of US carriers were doubly vulnerable to the Kamikaze compared to the sturdier steel decks of the British (and Australian) navy: it was a sacrifice they'd made for the sake of speed, storage space and to save money, but it would cost them dear.

On 4 May 1945, over a month into the Battle of Okinawa, the massive first step in the planned Allied invasion of Japan which was resisted by the largest force of suicide fliers seen to date, a Kamikaze Zero plummeted from a great height and hit the flight deck of the HMS Formidable. It left a gouge in the deck two feet deep, a large splinter of steel lancing through the deck to rupture a steam line from the boiler. Eight crew members were killed and 47 wounded, and it was hours before the fire was brought under control and the deck repaired. Seven days later, two Kamikaze hit the wooden flight deck of the USS Bunker Hill, ripping it open like wrapping paper as aviation fuel caught light and exploded. The inferno killed 346 seamen and wounded 264. The ship spent the rest of the war in dock being repaired. "When a Kamikaze hits a US carrier it means six months of repair", observed a US Navy liaison officer serving on board the HMS Indefatigable. "When a Kamikaze hits a Limey carrier it's just a case of, 'Sweepers, man your brooms.'"

26 pilots had flown at Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle of WWII, but only one aircraft carrier – the USS St Lo – had been sunk, although several ships were damaged. It wasn't quite the result the vice-admiral had been hoping for and over the next few months Allied ground forces would retake the Philippines metre by bloody metre. But even facts, like airmen, had no room for surrender and Onishi declared the Kamikaze an enormous success.

With news reports trumpeting Japan's great victories, new Special Attack Units formed on Japan-occupied Formosa (now Taiwan) and Sumatra (now part of Indonesia), as well as on Iwo Jima, the last island separating the Allied advance from Japan itself. A unit of four planes was also established to defend the skies of Tokyo by ramming US B-52 bombers with their high-altitude Nakajima Ki-44 Shoki fighters, with suitably pathetic results, while navy units trailed Kamikaze speedboats and submarines, and fared little better. As the war crept toward Japan's southernmost island, Okinawa, Kamikaze units were held back and stockpiled for the final push to drive away the invaders like the Mongols before them.

A Kamikaze Zero streams toward the USS Missouri off the coast of Okinawa



The USS Bunker Hill is hit by two Kamikaze in 30 seconds, its runway devastated

Jargon buster

Banzai
Literally meaning '10,000 years', Banzai is the shortened version of the battle charge 'Tenno Heika Banzai', or 'Long live the Emperor', and came to refer to the suicidal last-ditch charges of the Japanese Imperial Navy who would scream "Banzai!" as they flung themselves into battle.

Bushido
The warrior code of the samurai, the Bushido was the cornerstone of Imperial Japanese nationalism, encouraging sacrifice and total loyalty.

Kamikaze
Means 'divine wind' in reference to the storm which had thwarted the Mongol invasions of Japan in 1274 and 1281. Imperial Japan conjured their own 'divine wind' of suicidal bombing runs in the closing months of World War II.

Tokkōtai
This means Special Attack Unit, the shortened version of Tokubetsu Kōgekitai – the official title of the Kamikaze pilots and their related suicide units.

First-born sons were usually exempted (as only first-born sons could inherit businesses in Japan) and experienced pilots were turned down, their skills needed for training, but still volunteers numbered three or four times in excess of the number of planes actually available. Often as young as 17, most were in their late teens and early twenties – their final letters to their families (often accompanied by nail clippings and locks of hair) ringing with a cocktail of brutal indoctrination, youthful bravado and a hint of fear. Vice-Admiral Onishi was sending lambs to the slaughter

"Please congratulate me", wrote one; "I have been given a splendid opportunity to die."

"Your father is a strong man who flew a big heavy bomber and beat the entire enemy", wrote another; "Please become great as your father and avenge my death." A third wrote; "The enemy has come very close to us. If I don't [fly] my father and mother would die."

Shigeyoshi Hamazono, a Kamikaze pilot in the Philippines who had joined up shortly after Pearl Harbor remembered the events. "I saw so many of these new young pilots, fresh out of training, arriving at the air base in their fresh uniforms – the next day, they were gone," he said. "On the surface, they thought they had no choice but to be Kamikaze pilots. But deep in their hearts, it wasn't what they wanted. We said what we were supposed to say about the emperor, but we didn't feel it in our hearts. We were ready to die, but for our families and for Japan. We thought people who talked seriously about wanting to die for the emperor were misguided. It was more like a mother who drops everything when her child needs her. That's how the Kamikaze felt about their country."

Aged 17, our young pilot, whose lips still stung from Sake, took to the air at the Battle of Okinawa and died just as he had decided he would. He was one of 350 Kamikaze to fly in the battle. Remembered as 'test no bōfū' – 'the violent wind of steel' – it was one of the most intense battles of World War II, on land, on sea and in the air. One destroyer, the USS Laffey, fought off 20 aircraft at once, shooting down nine Kamikaze, while six others collided with the vessel. Amazingly it

The USS Intrepid limps away from a Kamikaze strike

THE KAMIKAZE MANUAL

This set of deadly instructions was designed to only be followed once by their user

Stored in every Kamikaze fighter's cockpit, this manual – recently translated into English in *From Kamikaze: Japan's Suicide Gods* by Albert Axell and Hideaki Kase – is a terrifyingly poetic document that covers all aspects of the pilot's compartment, from health to tactics. Here are the five most horrifying extracts:

- "Exert the best in yourself. Strike an enemy vessel that is either moored or at sea. Sink the enemy and thus pave the road for our people's victory."
- "[Push] the elevator control forward sufficiently to allow for the increase in speed. Do your best. Push forward with all your might. You have lived for 20 years or more. You must exert your full might for the last time in your life. Exert supernatural strength."
- "Before the collision it is essential that you do not shut your eyes for a moment so as not to miss the target. Many have crashed into the targets with wide-open eyes. They will tell you what fun they had."
- "You can see clearly the muzzles of the enemy's guns. You feel that you are suddenly floating in the air. At that moment, you see your mother's face. She is not smiling or crying. It is her usual face."
- "Remember when diving into the enemy to shout at the top of your lungs: 'Hissatsu!' ['Sink without fail!'] At that moment, all the cherry blossoms at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo will smile brightly at you."

remained afloat, although many both here and in early battles with the Kamikaze, did not. Between 25 October 1944 and 25 January 1945, two US carriers, 23 destroyers and 27 other ships were sunk, 4,900 US sailors were killed and another 4,800 were wounded. Roughly 4,000 Kamikaze pilots died in World War II, most shot down with only 14 per cent reaching their targets. As devastating as a hit from a diving Zero was, the chances of that hit landing decreased significantly once the Allies adapted to the threat.

The once-feared agility of the Japanese Mitsubishi A6M Zero had been increasingly outclassed from 1943 onward, with the introduction of the US F6F Hellcat and F4U Corsair. Both were faster than even the nimble Zeros – the Corsair especially so – and at high altitudes the heavier Hellcat could duck and weave rings around their lighter enemy, turning the dogfights into 'turkey shoots' for Allied pilots streaming from the carrier decks of the US Navy. Even the Royal Navy used them, alongside the Supermarine Seafire – a cousin to the iconic Spitfire, which outperformed even the Hellcat at high altitudes and kept the Kamikaze at bay during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Similarly, the elements that had made the US aircraft carriers in particular such a vital target also made them a difficult one. While Japanese carriers mainly carried dive-bombers, by 1944, US carriers held a force comprised of around 65 per cent fighter planes, providing a Kamikaze-stopping screen of veteran airmen. The radar that the Japanese lacked made approaching planes visible at 130 kilometres (80 miles) away, more than enough time to man the anti-aircraft guns and scramble the Hellcats. Anti-aircraft guns too were more sophisticated and numerous – with the first cruisers specially designed for anti-aircraft duties, they would shield the carriers like prickly bodyguards, spitting shells skyward. Radar proved a game-changing offensive tool as well as a defensive one, with anti-aircraft shells now using radar to detonate by proximity, rather than on a timer. Suddenly the skies were peppered with death from below, as well as above.

> "They'd been weakened still by the loss of more experienced pilots and the influx of less disciplined new recruits"

Kamikaze's success was therefore automatically hamstrung. The same vulnerabilities that made the Zero good for little better than throwing it at the enemy hadn't gone away, instead they'd only been weakened still by the loss of more-experienced pilots and the influx of less disciplined new recruits, most with less than 100 flying hours to draw from. Japanese instructors typically insisted on 400 flying hours before a pilot was even ready for carrier training, and a full 800 hours in total before they were qualified to fly with the Imperial Navy's carrier fleet – although the first pilots at the Leyte Gulf battle were veterans, they quickly became the exception.

Despite his earlier, bullish reports to Naval High Command, Onishi wasn't ignorant of this. Kamikaze was only ever a delaying tactic, superior US air power, anti-aircraft measures and radar along with the seemingly infinite capacity of the US economy to swallow the cost of total war, made Japanese victory near-impossible after the Battle of Midway. Not that he could admit that. Instead he was forced to make the cost of that Allied progress so high that the war could be brought to a close in a manner that afforded Japan some dignity and perhaps some of its empire intact, or give them time to rebuild their shattered military and start fighting back.

It wasn't just the Kamikaze and their various related units that thought this way. Despite overwhelming odds, the resilient Japanese turned Okinawa into a gruelling four-month slog of constant bombardment from the skies and even terrifying suicide charges on the land. Even the eventual US victory quickly turned bitter as many of the island's population killed themselves or were killed by the military rather than face the indignity of surrender. In the prolonged battle, 12,520 Americans, 94,136 Japanese soldiers and 94,000 Japanese civilians died – the true cost of Kamikaze culture. They *had* made the cost of victory too high, but Onishi and his fellow travellers at the top of Japan's military machine could never have expected the response.

For Japan, World War II would end with atom bombs scorching the air above Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the surrender of Emperor Hirohito on 2 September 1945. For the suicide pilots of the Kamikaze it would end later that same day as Vice-Admiral Takijiro Onishi joined their ranks, sliding a blade into his guts and dragging it left-to-right until his intestines spilled out onto the floor, in an agonising act of ritual suicide.

It was an ugly way to die, but perhaps a poetic one and his final words more poetic still. "I apologise to the souls of those dead fliers and their bereaved families", he wrote. "I wish the young people of Japan to find a moral in my death. To be reckless is only to aid the enemy. You must abide by the spirit of the emperor's decision with utmost perseverance. You are the treasure of the nation. With all the fervour of spirit of the [Kamikaze], strive for the welfare of Japan and for peace throughout the world."

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Race to the Antarctic

How lies, Captain Scott's old imperial view of exploration and a tug of war between science and discovery led to his team dying in the freezing ice desert of Antarctica

Written by Andy Brown

When the news arrived via telegram the response was a mixture of shock, disbeLef and amazement. The news would also ultimately contribute to the death of an English Captain and his four men as far away from the land of hope and glory as it was possible to imagine.

The telegram revealed that two parties had both reached the North Pole in the Arctic, which for decades had been the goal of explorers around the world. Both men claiming to have reached one of the most inhospitable points on the planet were American - Robert E Perry and Dr Frederick Cook. While neither party provided sufficient information to silence the sceptics the report stirred one explorer into action, Roald Amundsen.

The news shattered the Norwegian's dream to be the first to reach the North Pole, so he changed his goal to the South Pole. Amundsen knew that an English captain called Scott was also preparing for such a journey and would be furious to know he had a rival. He made his preparations in secret, hand-picked a small team and sailed from Norway under cover of darkness. Only when the ship had reached the island of Madeira off West Africa did he tell his shocked men of their actual destination before sending off telegrams informing the world of his plans. One of these was to Scott and simply read, "Beg leave to inform you proceeding Antarctica. Amundsen." The race was on.

Robert Falcon Scott was no stranger to Antarctic exploration. In 1901 the British Naval officer captained the custom-built ship Discovery in its quest to explore new land and carry out scientific research. The ship did not return to British shores until 1904 and the expedition instilled some beliefs in Scott that would be key in this later race with Amundsen, such as his distrust of huskies. An expedition in 1902 saw Scott, Earnest Shackleton and Dr Wilson set off on a bold journey to travel south and see how far they could get. Scott noted in his diary that he would "prefer ten days of man-hauling to one spent in driving a worn-out dog team." When the team returned to their base camp they had been away for over 90 days and covered 1,545 kilometres (960 miles). They had come closer to the South Pole than anyone else had - but this was not enough for the ambitious explorer.

Scott returned home a hero and the Navy promptly promoted him to the rank of captain. He was suddenly elevated to high society - he attended dinners and drinks with some of London's most exclusive socialites, and it was here that he met his future wife, Kathleen Bruce an artist and sculptress. While he was in England his former team member, Shackleton, set off on his own expedition to the South Pole - the two had quarrelled on the Discovery and this latest news drove a final wedge between them - and although he didn't reach the fabled pole, he was also considered a hero and was knighted on return. Britain's seemingly endless thirst for brave explorers was tied into the idea of national prestige; the largest empire in the world wanted to grasp another small

12 September 1911

Prospects of milder weather doubtful - all this persuaded me to settle for reaching the depot at 80° this time .. To risk men and animals out of sheer obstinacy and continue, just because we have started on our way - that would never occur to me. If we are to win this game, the pieces must be moved carefully - one false move, and everything can be lost. *R.A*

Captain Robert Scott's ship, the Terra Nova

Exploration history

1901-1904
Led the Discovery expedition during which Scott gained the record for proximity to the South Pole. He retuned home a hero.

1910
Leader of the Terra Nova Expedition to the South Pole. The trip also had scientific ambitions.

Wool clothing
Scott and his men mostly wore wool and cotton clothing. Each member of the party was responsible for repairing his own clothes and the kit the men wore would differ from man to man.

Walking
Scott did take huskies but he never fully trusted them or understood their potential. It was also thought that pulling sleds yourself was more 'heroic' and something that should be aspired to.

ROBERT FALCON SCOTT
British, 1868-1912
Brief Bio
Scott joined his first ship when he was 13 years old and became an officer in the Royal Navy where he rose to the rank of captain. While on home leave in 1899 he learned of an impending Antarctic exploration for which he volunteered to lead and which caught the public imagination with him returning home something of a celebrity. In 1910 he set off on an expedition to the South Pole, a journey from which he would not return.

1. Race begins
The team of British explorers set off from their base camp near Ross Island on 1 November. Amundsen's men departed from their base camp on 19 October
Ross Sea
1,381km (858mi)
1,285km (798mi)
4. Return to base camp
26/01/1912
6. Death of Oates
17/03/1912
7. Death of Scott, Wilson and Oates
30/03/1912
5. Death of Evans
17/02/1912
3. Scott reaches South Pole
17/01/1912
2. Amundsen reaches Pole
14/12/1911

13 September 1911

I don't know what to think of Amundsen's chances. If he gets to the Pole it must be before we do, as he is bound to travel fast with dogs and pretty certain start early.. You can rely on my not saying or doing anything foolish, only I'm afraid you must be prepared for finding our venture much belittled. After all, it is the work that counts, not the applause that follows. *R S*

and icy corner into its not inconsiderable bosom. The South Pole was the last great, unmapped corner of the world, the last symbol of discovery. Scott wanted this honour for himself and his country.

The British explorer began to assemble his team and it was clear from the outset that this was not just about reaching the South Pole first – the team also had genuine goals of scientific discovery. This feeling was summed up neatly in a letter from the expedition's scientific director, Dr Edward Wilson, to his father in which he wrote; "We want the scientific work to make the bagging of the Pole merely an item in the results." This ambition, this desire for the trip to also be about science, would play its part in Scott's death. For Amundsen – who has been coined the first 'professional polar explorer' – there were no such distractions. He was leading a raid with one clear goal, to reach the South Pole. Everything he and his team did was with this objective firmly in mind. Science, as he said: "...would have to look after itself."

The ship that was to transport Scott and his men to the Antarctic was the Terra Nova and a stopover in New Zealand offered one of the final chances to ensure it was adequately stocked. The party were not to be reliant on dogs (although they would take 33) but instead rely on ponies and three newfangled motor sleds, which Scott hoped would aid them but was another area of the party's scientific discovery. The sleds had been tested and proven to work, but not in conditions comparable to the South Pole. There were other transport problems as well; one of Scott's men, Captain Oats, was horrified when he saw the state of the 19 ponies. They were quite old and four of them were discovered to be lame and put down. On 29 November 1910, the ship set sail for Antarctica and on 4 January landed at a base – not Scott's old Discovery headquarters on the tip of Ross Island, but ten kilometres (six miles) further along on a headland that he named Cape Evans, after his second-in-command. While unloading, the largest motor sled fell through the ice and was lost forever in the freezing-cold water below. It would not be the last misfortune the party suffered.

In direct contrast, Amundsen's team had staked their mission's success on dogs. As Ronald Huntford explains in *Race for the South Pole*, their ship Fram

Norwegian flag
The race for the South Pole wasn't just between two men but two countries. Norway only became an independent country in 1905, so for a Norwegian to plant a flag at the South Pole was a great matter of pride.
Fur clothing
Amundsen was known as the first professional polar explorer and in planning for the journey studied the clothing of the Inuit. His team's fur clothing helped in the freezing conditions.
Boots
Amundsen's team was comprised of excellent skiers, even including champion skiers. The boots would fit into the skis and his men would keep pace with the huskies
Huskies
The Norwegian was well aware of the importance of huskies. Amundsen took a large team of huskies to pull their supplies, rather than the more labour-intensive manhauling

Roald Amundsen at the South Pole in 1911

Exploration history

ROALD AMUNDSEN

Norwegian, 1872-1928

Brief Bio

Born to a family of Norwegian shipowners and captains in Borge, his mother wanted him to avoid the family maritime trade and encouraged him to become a doctor, a promise that Amundsen kept until his mother died when he was 21. He quit university and joined the Belgian Antarctic Expedition in 1897 as first mate. He led the first team to reach the South Pole and continued exploring afterward. Amundsen disappeared on 18 June 1928, while flying on a rescue mission in the Arctic.

1903
Led a team of six men on the first expedition to traverse Canada's Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

1910
Planned his ultimately successful trip to the South Pole but he was not the first explorer.

1918
Two-year expedition to explore the undiscovered areas of the Arctic Ocean.

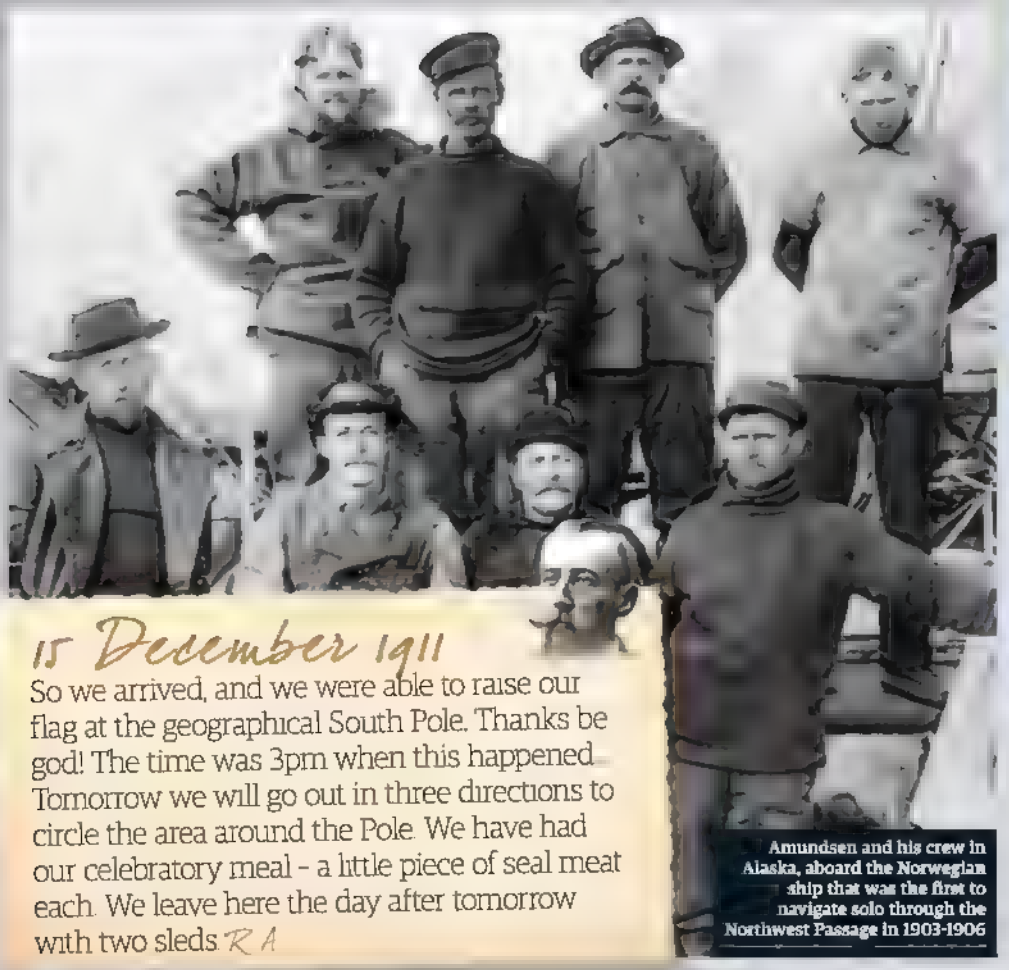
was: "...a floating kennel. One hundred Eskimo dogs were draped about the ship... the 19 men on board pandered to their every whim for the animals were the key to their enterprise." The Norwegians had gotten these animals from Greenland as they were thought to be the best for these conditions and planned to run sled dogs with men behind them on skis. Amundsen had studied Inuit culture and picked up tips on how they travelled and dressed.

Scott had a different approach to exploration. While it would be grossly unfair to paint him as out of touch regarding exploration – and the use of motor sleds showed his willingness to innovate – his approach had more than a touch of the old empire about it; for him a successful journey would be made with the attributes of hard work, a stiff upper lip, strong leadership and British strength in adversity. This is illustrated in the attitude to men hauling their equipment rather having it pulled by dogs – this was seen as more 'heroic'. He mostly chose Naval men for his expedition, rather than those with Antarctic experience.

It was, in spirit at least, an 'old-fashioned' adventure – his rival saw it more as a professional mission and recruited for the job accordingly by getting the best dogs and most experienced men, skiers and dog handlers possible.

The two rivals initially followed similar paths to the South Pole – after unloading and building their winter accommodation they both started preparing for the race ahead by laying depots along the early parts of the route before winter set in and made passage even more treacherous. These depots contained food and fuel for the return journey to limit the amount of kit the parties would have to set off with. They both settled in for the winter months, refining the plans they hoped would ensure their names lived forever in the annals of heroic Antarctic explorers, but in some respects, their preparations differed.

Due to his expedition's scientific slant, Scott's men carried out several other mapping and geological missions and there was another, more specific mission: to find and bring back an Emperor penguin egg. This had never been achieved before and on 27 June 1911, a three-man expedition set off from base camp.

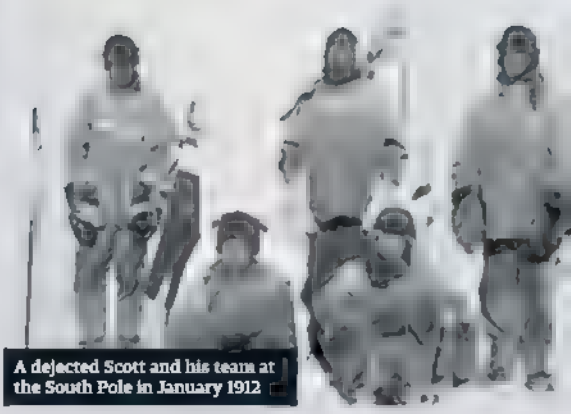


Amundsen and his crew in Alaska, aboard the Norwegian ship that was the first to navigate solo through the Northwest Passage in 1903-1906

15 December 1911

So we arrived, and we were able to raise our flag at the geographical South Pole. Thanks be god! The time was 3pm when this happened. Tomorrow we will go out in three directions to circle the area around the Pole. We have had our celebratory meal – a little piece of seal meat each. We leave here the day after tomorrow with two sleds. R A

Captain Scott's hut in Cape Evans, Ross Island, Antarctica



A dejected Scott and his team at the South Pole in January 1912

The men had to pull two sleds of food, fuel and equipment to reach the penguins breeding colony at Cape Crozier, 112 kilometres (70 miles) away and ended up getting lost. The trio eventually found the colony and returned five weeks later with three eggs. Scott called it "one of the most gallant stories in Polar history", but others have questioned whether – despite the noble intentions – the time might have been better served preparing for the trek to the South Pole. The expedition eventually brought back over 40,000 different specimens and their research produced 15 volumes of bound reports. Scott's was indeed not just a mission to be first to the South Pole.

Bunkered down in his hut, Scott had been revising his plans all winter and when Lieutenant Evans, his second in command, was away checking on depots he announced his plan. In Catherine Charley's *South Pole*, she speculates that this was because Evans was the only man Scott feared would stand up to him, but there is no evidence to support this. The Englishman's plan was to leave on 3 November and he calculated that the 2,460-kilometre (1,530-mile) round trek would take 144 days. Four types of transport would be used – man hauling, ponies, dogs and the motorised sleds – but Scott wanted to rely on ponies and man hauling. A party of men would travel past the Beardmore Glacier before three men would continue the final leg of the journey to the South Pole with Scott. Some of the men felt that the plans were optimistic and hadn't planned for any contingencies. Indeed, the scientist George Simpson wrote in his diary: "There is little margin and a few accidents, a spell of bad weather, would bring not only failure but also very likely disaster." Whatever the individual thoughts of the men, the plan was settled and the race could begin.

The team were split into different groups that set off at staggered times in what was the Antarctic summer – the sun now lived above the horizon. Evans was in charge of one party that had the two motorised sleds and Scott was shocked when his party came across them lying abandoned on the ice, collecting snowflakes. A note left by Evans explained that the sleds had broken down and could not be repaired so his party had continued, hauling their supplies manually. To make matters worse, it became apparent that the ponies were not suited for the conditions. Amundsen's party suffered no such difficulties. They had set off in a smaller group of five and all of them were experienced skiers and dog drivers. In contrast to Scott, Amundsen had also allowed a generous provision of supplies, meaning they had a good safety margin.

The conditions both parties encountered was frequently horrific – there was a reason no other exploration group had reached the South Pole before. There were times when the visibility was so bad they couldn't see anything in front of them. The sun never set and the light this generated and reflected off the snow was very intense. The average temperature reached -50 degrees Celsius (-58 degrees Fahrenheit) with -21 degrees Celsius (-6 degrees Fahrenheit) the norm, and the wind ripped unmercifully around them.

With his group just 240 kilometres (150 miles) away from their objective, Scott changed his mind about this final party. He would now take four men with him, rather than three, with the extra man being Lieutenant Bowers. This move has been used as a stick to beat Scott with. The party now had four men but the food had only been rationed for three, which even then had little margin for error. The party had gained another experienced navigator but at what cost to their food supplies? With the decision made Scott and his four men

18 January 1912

We have just arrived at this tent, two miles from our camp, therefore about 1 1/2 miles from the Pole. In the tent we find a record of five Norwegians having been here ... We have turned our back now on the goal of our ambition and must face our 800 miles of solid dragging – and good-bye to most of the day-dreams! R S

set off, walking stiffly against the chill wind as the rest of the party headed the other direction, back to the to the team's base camp and safety, if not immortality. Over a week after separating, on January 9, Scott's party reached and then beat Shackleton's record of proximity to the Pole. Scott had beaten one of his great rivals, but there was another one, much more dangerous, making his way metronomically towards the target.

Scott didn't know it but Amundsen had beaten Shackleton's record exactly a month before him. His men were feeling the conditions, their dogs were getting hungry and dangerous – they had to be wary at night-time that the animals didn't attack them – but they were close. As they moved towards their goal tensions were high – would they see Scott's party returning triumphant? They did not. On 15 December 1911, after extensively consulting their compasses, Amundsen and his men shook hands in silence and then drove the Norwegian flag deep into the ground. The group didn't want anyone to question what they had achieved. They set off to a place which Amundsen's calculations concluded was the true Pole (later research would show he was just 200 metres (660 feet) off – a fantastic bit of navigating) and pitched a tent in which they left anything they didn't need. Amundsen set another flag outside their camp on the route the British would later cross, and wrote two letters and his diary. In his journal he wrote: "Farewell dear Pole. I don't think we'll meet again."

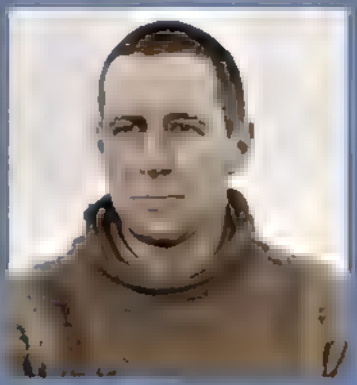
Never had a flag caused such a devastating impact on a group of weary men. The flag that Amundsen had planted was like a dagger slid into their ribs as the men stood motionless among the dogs' paw prints which were still dotted around in the snow. The troops were disconsolate but Scott insisted that they finish their journey and plant a British flag. They reached Amundsen's tent and found a letter addressed to Scott. It read: "As you are probably the first to reach the area after us I will ask you kindly to forward this letter to King Haakon VII. If you can use any of the articles left in the tent please do not hesitate to do so. With kind regards. I wish you a safe return."

After grabbing some of the Norwegians' warm clothing and hoisting the British flag aloft, they began to contemplate the return journey. They had to cover 1,290 kilometres (800 miles),

"I may be some time" - These were Scott's men

Dr Wilson

Chief of the scientific staff. Wilson travelled with Scott on the Discovery mission of 1901-04 and was instrumental in persuading Scott to make a second attempt.

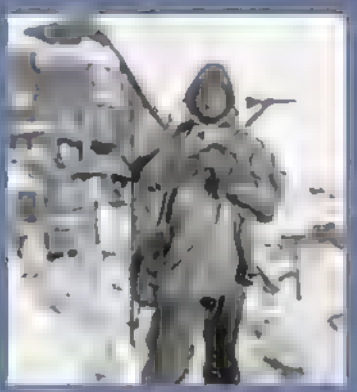


Captain Oates

In charge of ponies and mules. Oates had travelled to the Antarctic with Scott on the Terra Nova expedition.

Lieutenant Bowers

Commissariat officer. Bowers was a skilled navigator and had been on the Terra Nova expedition.



Petty Officer Evans, RN

In charge of sledges and equipment. Evans had been on the Discovery mission and was the first of the party to die.

dragging their sleds themselves. Using a pole from Amundsen's flag, they attached a sail to their sleds and headed off into the distance, desperately hoping that a strong wind would catch the sail and propel them onward. As the weeks went on, the men experienced frostbite and it was clear they were slowly starving to death.

Their mission to make it to the South Pole had failed but, incredibly, Scott wasn't prepared to also give up the trip's scientific endeavours. He agreed that Wilson could spend an afternoon collecting rock samples to take back for scientific research. Not only did this take up time and energy but also added to the weight the team had to carry. By Saturday 17 February 1912 the group had covered 640 kilometres (400 miles) – about half of the distance – and were showing serious signs of injury and fatigue, with Evans the worst. His fingers were suffering from frostbite and he collapsed, feeling sick and giddy. He got up again but when the group set off they consistently had to wait for him to catch up – on one occasion Scott went back to retrieve him and found him crawling in the snow. He died soon afterward, the first of the party to not make it back to base camp.

There was no time to grieve. If they were to survive they had to keep moving, living from food depot to food depot. At this point they were travelling approximately 11 kilometres (seven miles) and walking for nine hours a day. Oates had frostbite in his feet that were turning to gangrene. He cut a slit in his sleeping bag and slept with his feet outside; he couldn't cope with the agony of his feet unfreezing and then freezing again. He knew he was holding up his companions and so one night moved to the entrance of the tent, turned and said, "I am just going outside and may be some time." They watched him limp off into the surrounding snow, all knowing they would never see him again.

Scott himself could now hardly walk and while Wilson and Bowers thought they could make it to the next food depot, the three men stayed together in the tent as a storm blew wildly around them outside. If their rival hadn't believed the Les of the men who claimed to have made it to the North Pole and changed his target, it has been speculated Scott and his men could have survived – they were a mere 18 kilometres (11 miles) from the next food depot. Would knowing they had reached the South Pole first have given them the heart and strength needed to carry on? Still, the three men waited to die in their tent and wrote notes; Wilson and Bowers to their families and Scott to the press, his family and sponsors. He also wrote his last diary entry.

As the sun reappeared for the next Antarctic summer, a search party spotted the top of Captain Scott's tent pole peeking out of the snow. They found Scott and his men, their letters, diaries and photos. The tent was almost completely covered, one other bout of heavy snow before the search party reached the tent would have covered it, with the fate of the men – and their own private words and thoughts – lost to the ages. After singing *Onward Christian Soldiers*, Scott's favourite hymn, they built a cross, placed it on the tent and then left it to the conditions.

The British expedition had failed through a combination of poor planning, skewed priorities and plain bad luck, but the courage and self-sacrifice the men showed until the bitter end has proven to be inspirational. A cross still stands near the beach by Cape Evans in memorial to the men. The final words are: 'To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.' Whatever his faults, the gentleman explorer encompassed all of those fine ideals.

29 March 1912

Every day we have been ready to start for our depot 11 miles away, but outside the door of the tent it remains a scene of whirling drift. I do not think we can hope for any better things now. We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more. R S

7 March 1912

Arrived at Hobart at 11am. Went ashore with the doctor and the harbourmaster. Booked into the Orient hotel. Was treated like a tramp – my peaked cap and blue sweater – given a miserable little room. Immediately visited the Norwegian consul, McFarlane, and was very warmly received by the old gentleman... Thereafter telegraphed the King. R A

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Jack the Ripper

THE FORGOTTEN VICTIMS

PAUL BEGG

WITH JOHN BENNETT

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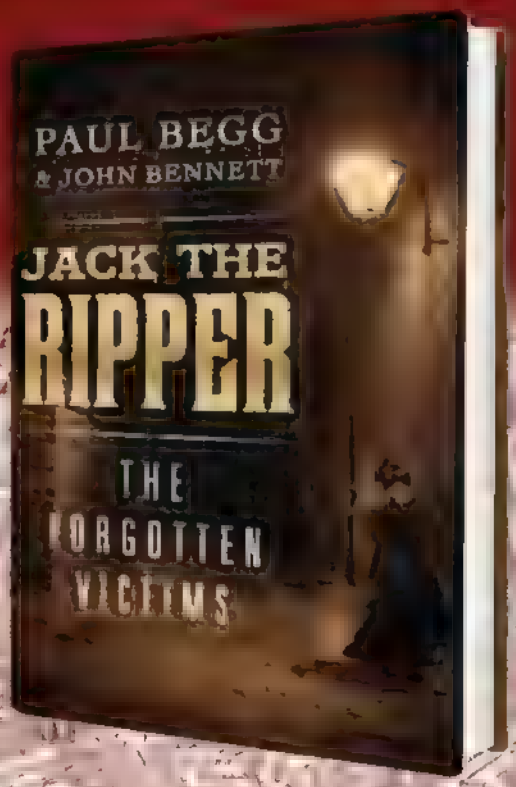

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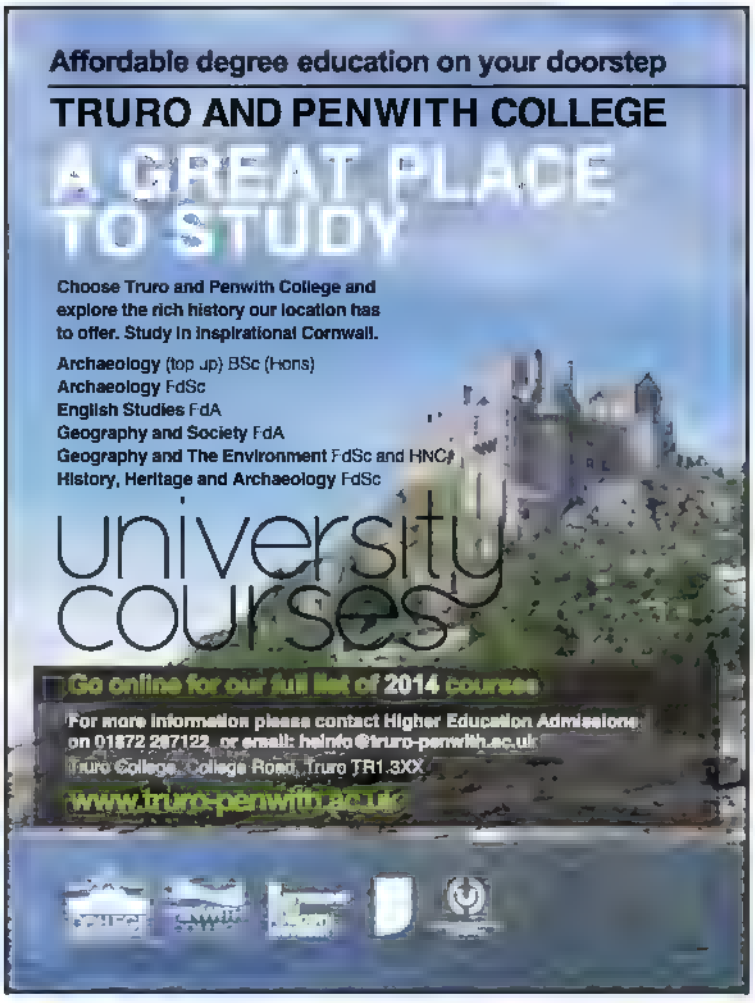

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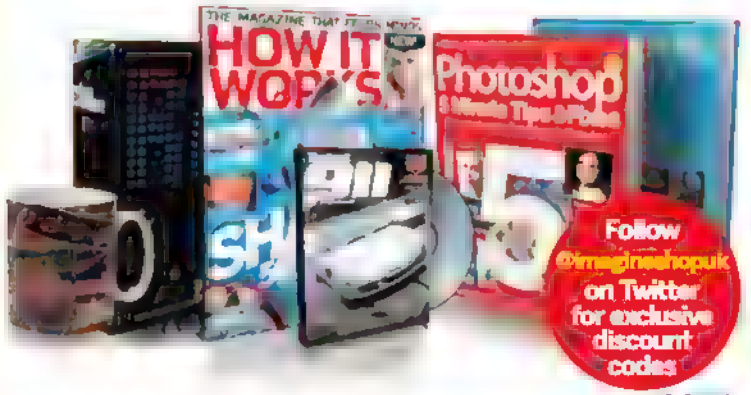

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REVIEW ROUNDUP

REVIEW ROUNDUP: CRIME

Our pick of some of the most noteworthy books, films and apps on crime, both true and fictional

BOOKS

DETECTIVES

The Man Who Hunted Jack The Ripper
Author: Peter Thurgood
Publisher: History Press

Frederick George Abberline has for many become synonymous with the case of Jack the Ripper – he hunted for London's East End terror. As the book shows though, Abberline had investigated numerous serious crimes before the Ripper came along and was an honest policeman in a time of rampant corruption – it is time he was moved out of the Ripper's shadow.

If you like this, try...
The Great British Bobby **Clive Emsley**
The story of the Metropolitan Police from establishment to the introduction of female officers in WWI, through to how technology changed their jobs and to modern-day scandals.

PLACE

Murder Houses Of London
Author: Jan Bondeson
Publisher: Amberley

If you were choosing a city to star as a crime story character, London would be front and centre. Bondeson delves into the many dark corners of the city's history to catalogue the crimes that have occurred everywhere from its narrowest and darkest streets to the stateliest mansions, providing a peek behind its bloodiest closed doors for over two centuries.

If you like this, try...
Death In The City Of Light **David King**
In 1944 Paris was occupied by the Nazis and, among all the other horror, a serial killer was at work at night. King's vivid retelling puts the reader at the middle of the investigation.

CONSPIRACY

The Princes In The Tower
Author: Josephine Wilkinson
Publisher: Amberley

In 1483, two young princes were taken into the Tower of London never to be seen again. Soon after, the boys' uncle took the throne as Richard III and one of the world's most enduring conspiracy theories was born. Wilkinson investigates the prime suspects, asks whether they might have survived and presents her own theory about what really happened to them.

If you like this, try...
Et Tu, Brute? The Murder Of Caesar **Greg Woolf** – The author examines the murder of Caesar from a political standpoint and asks why it changed the course of ancient Rome and why Caesar's ghost still looms so large

OVERVIEW

A Brief History Of Crime by Peter Hitchens is many things, but brief it is not. Hitchens is a controversial character and is known to be fairly far right on the political spectrum. This 320-page book looks at how policing policy has changed and evolved and questions the commonly held view that poverty leads to crime. This book is most definitely not for everyone but it does have a strong argument and, even if you don't agree with all the conclusions, it will make you examine some of your own assumptions about crime.

PUBLIC ENEMIES

Year: 2009
Directed by: Michael Mann

The story of the last few years of John Dillinger, one of the United States' most notorious bank robbers. The film portrays Dillinger having the run of Thirties Chicago, the early years of the FBI and the agents sent to track him down. While it sometimes veers away from historical accuracy it is an entertaining watch.

TOP 3 APPS

Get your hands dirty with these three crime apps

MURDER DETECTIVE

Android 2.2+ | Free

You play a detective working on a case and decide how to proceed. Each answer can lead to solving the case or meeting a nasty end. This app is ideal for those wanting to play detective with their tongue in their cheek.

KILLER ENCYCLOPEDIA

Android 2.1+ / iOS 5.0+ | £1.49 ($2.99)

This app is packed with over a hundred entries spanning centuries of serial murderers, documenting their lives and how they were caught. Search the app for proven and suspected murderers and different profiles if you have a morbid curiosity.

RIPPERPEDIA

iOS 3.0+ | £3.99 ($5.99)

This app is a mini illustrated Ripper encyclopaedia, with links to related topics on each entry and a handy map of related sites in the East End. There's a good range of entries covering suspects, victims, evidence and locations with free updates promised in the future. The interface is user friendly as well.

TELEVISION AND FILMS

ZODIAC

Year: 2007
Directed by: David Fincher

This film focuses on a series of murders in San Francisco in the Seventies and the hunt for the killer, by the police as well as newspaper journalists. As the killer taunts those searching for him the hunt becomes increasingly obsessive and takes over the life of some of the searchers in Fincher's slow-burning but deeply atmospheric film.

CHINATOWN

Year: 1974
Directed by: Roman Polanski

Often copied but seldom matched, Polanski's cinematic masterclass follows Jack Nicholson's private detective hired on a seemingly straightforward mission who gets unwittingly pulled into a complex web of seething political and criminal activity. A stunning portrait of the kind of crime that often occurs behind the scenes to keep cities ticking over.

BEHIND BARS

Year: 2010
Directed by: Various

Documentary series that explores what life is like in jail for prisoners and guards alike. Focusing on life inside prisons in the United States, it explores prison gangs, the effects of solitary confinement and unruly prisoners.

EDITOR'S PICK

The five-season HBO drama series *The Wire* might just be the best thing to ever appear on television. The underlying story follows the lives of a group of drug dealers in Baltimore, USA, and the police unit assembled to track them down, but that description doesn't do it justice. Each episode and season builds and builds so that by the end of the fifth and final season there are over 25 three-dimensional, beautifully drawn main characters that the viewer has invested in. Even though the series focuses on drug dealers and the police following them, the show never judges, never paints one side as bad and one as good. It seeks to show why for some there simply isn't another choice and also brilliantly highlights the politics and box-checking involved in a lot of modern-day police work. A masterpiece of crime television.

"There are over 25 three-dimensional, beautifully drawn main characters"

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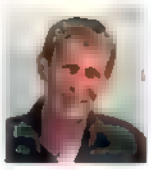
ALL ABOUT YOUR HISTORY

Share your past with us

William Farnaby Brown on his wedding day

My two grandfathers' medals and their stories



Richard Brown, Nottingham

I am very lucky to have inherited war medals from both my grandparents and with a little bit of research have been able to find out more about why they were given and the fascinating stories behind them.

Sadly, I only knew my grandfathers for a few years while I was still quite young. However, as a curious child, I loved to listen to whatever snippets of information they let slip about 'what they did in the war.' As is often the case with that generation, neither of them were keen to open up about their war experiences, but piecing together my memories of them with their medals I have found an absorbing picture of both World War I and II that I never knew existed.

There were some puzzles to solve, such as how my maternal grandfather, James Swinburn Chicken, who I knew was a chief engineering officer from Sunderland in northeast England, managed to get involved in the great Dunkirk evacuation when he was 63 years old. I also had to investigate how my paternal grandfather William Parnaby Brown got wounded at the Somme when he served with a bicycle brigade who supposedly never served at the front. Their medals and the wonderful resource of the Internet gave me the answers.

James Chicken was awarded the 1939-45 Star for operational service and in 1946 received an MBE. Following a link from the MBE I discovered that James was a chief engineer on a London collier vessel called SS Icemaid. These ships ferried coal from depots in the estuary, to the many power stations farther up the Thames, a vital service keeping the city and vital war industries working. I thought this was probably a cushy job but in fact nine colliers were lost to enemy action. Vessels were torpedoed, machine gunned, attacked by E-boats and my grandfather's ship struck a mine in October 1941, damaging his beloved main engines. Fortunately, a salvage vessel was able to keep the ship afloat and managed to tow it back to port.

As for Dunkirk, I now know that he was sailing on a small ship based on the Thames estuary in May 1940, it makes sense that he would have taken part in that great evacuation, even at the grand old age of 64. The 1939-45 Star added just one more bit of information, as it was awarded where service was ended through death or disability due to service. Dear old grandfather Chicken must eventually have had to give up the fight before the war ended, possibly when he became 65 years old, or perhaps he was injured in the aforementioned mine explosion in 1941.

Second Lieutenant William Parnaby Brown, my other granddad, was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the Medal for Voluntary Service overseas 1914-18. I also have two hard cardboard dog tags stamped with his name,

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The Battle of the Somme was one of WWI's bloodiest battles

James Chicken received an MBE for services to his country

rank and NCB (Northern Cycle Battalion). When I first saw the tags I thought it strange that he should have two, then in an instant, which sent a shiver down my back, I realised that if you were killed in action one would be left on the body and one would be taken back to confirm the death.

It was quite odd to handle the tags that my grandfather Brown must have worn around his neck all those years ago in that distant bloody war. Researching the history of cycle battalions never did explain to me how my grandfather was wounded in the leg at the Battle of the Somme in 1917 as he told me he was. However, I did find a picture of cyclist troops advancing through Brie in the Somme so I know they were there and near to the action. However, my grandfather's personal story remains a mystery for now. What can never be denied are the three medals proudly showcased on my study wall, each engraved with his name and rank, a permanent reminder of a little piece of our nation's history and a big part of my own personal history.

Connection to a captain?

Darren E Ramon, Texas, USA

As a child, I grew up hearing from my grandfather about our family and a wonderful ranch that our relation Diego owned and how upon his death the children selfishly divided the property so that it no longer resembles its former glory. My grandfather became disillusioned when he found out his heritage had been squandered by some of his family members. I was just a small boy but nonetheless I was interested in history. I was able to meet his mother who died at the age of 109.

In school I would read about the first expedition into Texas and the accomplishments of Captain Diego Ramon. During that time I believed that we were his ancestors and I was proud of that fact.

In time, I took upon myself to do research on Diego. I was so obsessed with history that I also acquired coins minted in the 11th century by Count Ramon V in France when Occitania existed. In the process I formed in my mind this invisible thread linking these names as family.

When confirmation from National Geographic's Geno Project verified that my ancestry was Jewish I wondered if Diego Ramon had been a Jew and whether the animosity he faced was because of this. The Spanish government would not have allowed that since the Catholic Church was at odds with the Jews.

My grandfather took me to a town as a child and what it resembled was any ordinary community in the United States except that this [town] was in Mexico. The people were white as was my blue-eyed grandfather. History has shown that many hidden Jews had travelled to outer regions of the frontier to escape the Inquisition and I believe Diego was a man of peace, seeking peace with the native people, but my question is, why would he be so zealous for a faith that would have put him to death or persecuted him because of his secret?

Diego spent his final years in constant danger because of his enemies. Accusations as well as attempts on his life were made. When he was to be taken into custody to be presented to a tribunal in Mexico City, he died. His sons were not as capable as he was and so history cast a dark shadow on their contribution. Again, my DNA has not matched any other Ramon in America, but it's possible they have not been tested. Regardless of what Diego was, his contributions were enough to be discussed in textbooks and if he was my ancestor, then he was a person with a secret believing that as dangerous as the frontier was, it was better to make peace and live with the native people than with an institution that was ready to put him to death. I appreciate his contribution and its impact on my life.

Do you have family history to share?

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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

CLEOPATRA

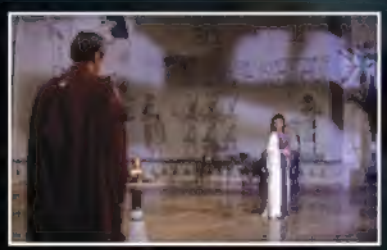
Was this classic film as liberal with historical fact as it was with its budget?

Director: Joseph L Mankiewicz, Rouben Mamoulian, Darryl F Zanuck **Starring:** Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton
Country of origin: UK, USA, Switzerland **Year:** 1963

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

01 Cleopatra commits suicide in Shakespearean fashion by clasping a snake to her breast until it bites her. But beside the fact that the snake used in the film was a harmless garden snake (not an Egyptian cobra), historians believe she was bitten on her arm or that she simply poisoned herself.

02 Cicero was shown to take an active role in Roman politics and play a major part in plotting the death of Caesar. But the real-life Cicero didn't enter the senate when Caesar was the de-facto emperor and played no active part in his assassination, although he did write a letter of support to one of Brutus's supporters.



03 Despite the film being set in the last century BCE, the décor used is from a mixture of different reigns from many different Egyptian kings and queens. This includes Queen Hetepheres, who actually lived around 2,600 years before Cleopatra ruled this illustrious ancient civilisation.

04 The film largely ignores the militaria of Caesar's period in favour of the armour and shields that were used a century later. Centurions weren't acknowledged either – not a single soldier in the Oscar-winning movie has a crest indicating their rank, and there were many in Caesar's army.

05 Although the Arch of Constantine shown in the film's opening sequence was authentically and painstakingly replicated, history doesn't place the Arch in the Forum at all, aside from the not-so-trivial fact that it wasn't built until a full 350 years after Cleopatra entered Rome.

What they got right

The makers of the film on the whole did try to follow the history of the period closely. It correctly portrays that Cleopatra VII of Egypt did indeed have a son with Caesar in 47 BCE, named Ptolemy Caesar and the child was nicknamed Caesarion.

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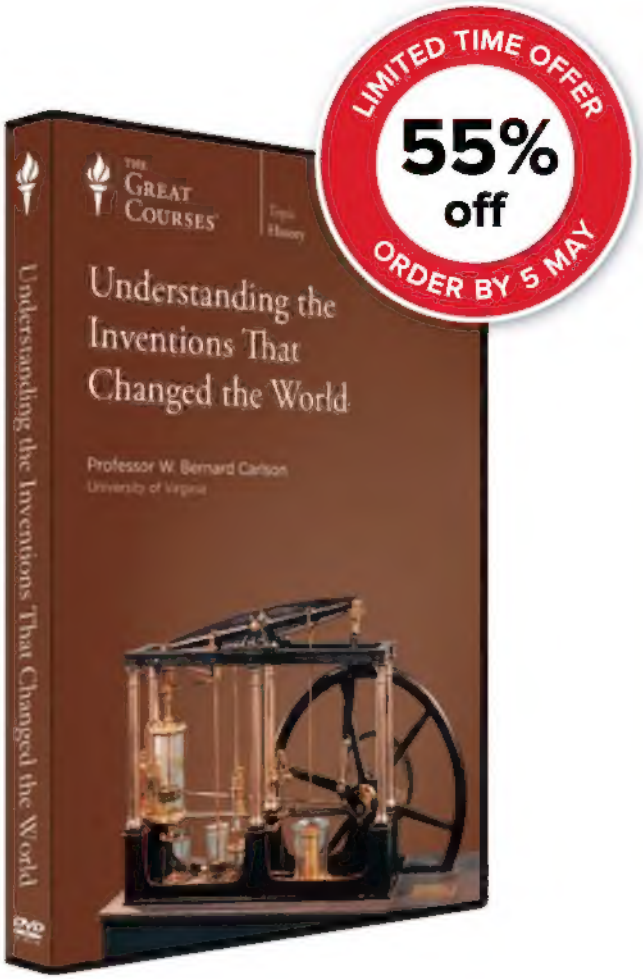

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